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EAST KENT EDITION
Issue no 489

Thousands of flood-risk homes face insurance cover panic

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

TENS of thousands of homes at risk of flooding face rocketing insurance costs – or problems even getting covered – due to the looming expiry of a government pact guaranteeing flood cover.

Experts have warned that the agreement – which obliges insurers to provide cover for high-risk properties as long as the Government improves flood defences – runs out in June, 2013, creating uncertainty for the 34,000 homes in Kent at risk of flooding.

A report by the Association of British Insurers (ABI) flagged up three areas in Kent with the most homes at significant risk: Folkestone and Hythe with 7,196; Sittingbourne and Sheppey at 4,295; and Canterbury with 4,199.

The three constituencies are in the UK's top 10 for the most homes at risk.

Others areas have lower numbers, such as Maidstone with 1,109; Ashford at 813; and Tunbridge Wells with 340.

The ABI warned that with the flood pact ending next year, a new sustainable solution needed to be urgently agreed to avoid thousands of homes struggling to get insurance cover.

Tory MP for Folkestone and Hythe Damian Collins said the current agreement should be reviewed in terms of an extension. But he criticised the insurance industry for forcing unfair charges on his constituents.

"The Government continues to invest in sea defences, but this is not reflected in customers' insurance bills," he said.

"There are two things we need to do; the first is to continue to invest in sea defences. People are pleased to see the completion of defences at Dymchurch and we are pushing for investment for

Continued on page 2

WASHED UP: Figures show around 34,000 Kent homes are at risk from flooding

TOURISM

Kent's Dickens birthday boost

AUTHOR Charles Dickens spent much of his life in Kent, and many scenes in his books are set in the county. With his 200th birthday being celebrated next week, tourism chiefs are hoping for a multi-million pound boost to the economy. We take look at the events being planned. **PAGE 17**

TECHNOLOGY

Broadband's £20m upgrade

A whopping £20 million is to be spent on turning Kent and Medway's broadband 'not spots' into hotspots.

It is hoped the cash from central government and Kent County Council will ensure no-one has to miss out the benefits offered by high-speed broadband. **PAGE 23**

SPORT

Overall plays down 2012

THE only Kent athlete assured of a place at the London Olympics this summer is doing his best not to focus on the event.

Scott Overall will compete in the marathon, but is setting interim targets to aim for in the hope of avoiding mental fatigue from the build-up to the Games. **PAGE 82**

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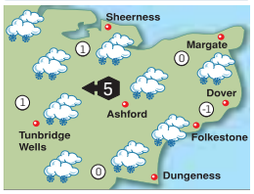

TODAY: Cloudy with snow in the morning. Cold. Gentle variable winds. Max temp -2 to 1C (28-34F). **TONIGHT:** Dry but cloudy. Cold. Min temp -4 to -1C (25-30F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	09.15	5.7	21.42	5.9
Margate	10.13	4.1	22.40	4.3
St Mary's	02.51	4.8	15.13	4.8

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 2C	Min -6C
Tuesday	Max 2C	Min -4C
Wednesday	Max 3C	Min -2C
Thursday	Max 3C	Min -2C
Friday	Max 4C	Min -2C
Saturday	Max 5C	Min 0C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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CONTACTS
Editor: Ian Patel
Email ian.patel@archant.co.uk
Address: Apple Barn, Smeeth, TN25 6SS
Editorial: News: 01303 817100
Leisure: 01303 817200
Sport: 01303 817183
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising: Jobs/Notices: 01303 817040
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POLICE

Police fight back over high rates of 'no crime' revealed by inspectors

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A REVIEW into the way Kent Police records crime has exposed the high rate of incidents dismissed as 'no crimes'.

The report by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary found the county's force had a higher rate of 'no crime' than other forces in the country. This is when a recorded incident is logged as 'no crime committed'.

Last year, the force came under fire after figures released by the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) revealed that 30 per cent of rape claims in Kent – the highest in the country – fell into the 'no crime' category.

Campaigners from the Women Against Rape charity said it sent out a "terrible message" to victims.

The latest findings showed 'no crimes' were still prevalent, but a spokeswoman at Kent Police said it was in no-one's interest to waste time on cases where a crime had not been committed.

She gave examples of when 'no crimes' had been recorded, including a case where a person who had called police to report their car had been stolen from a car park, had called back saying they had found it.

The spokeswoman said: "(In another case) a report was received that a 'victim' had left their mobile telephone on a table in a public room in a hotel and that it had been stolen.

"Subsequently, the telephone was returned to them having been found by a resident in the hotel who had removed it for safe keeping."

But the HMIC report noted a high rate of 'no crimes' and said researchers had looked at how often a record that had initially been recorded as a crime was later reviewed and de-classified.

"The force has a higher rate of 'no crimes' than other forces. This means that Kent Police may be under-recording crime when compared to others."

The report, however, praised the force's accurate recording of crimes, its good standard of recorded information and its victim-focused approach to crime recording.

The Kent Police spokeswoman defended the high 'no crime' rate stating the report was based on a small sample.

"We are pleased that the HMIC recognises that Kent Police places a strong emphasis on recording quality data," she said.

"It is in no-one's interest that time is wasted on cases where a crime has not been committed and we are pleased that HMIC has specifically praised our victim-focused approach to crime recording, and our particular efforts with repeat and vulnerable victims such as the disabled or the elderly."

TIME MANAGEMENT: Police say they do not want to waste time on 'no crimes'

FLOODING

'People may find it impossible to get insurance'

Continued from front page

defences in Romney Marsh.

"The second thing is to put pressure on insurance companies not to overcharge customers, and where sea defences have been completed this should be reflected in bills."

Mr Collins said he has called a meeting with environment minister Richard Benyon to discuss the matter.

Spokeswoman for campaigners Defend Our Coast, Brigitte, Bass said the organisation had frequently pointed out that properties in flood-risk areas would face insurance problems when the agreement ran out.

"Some people may find it impossible to get insurance for their properties," she said.

"Hythe is one of those areas with 'significant risk of flooding' and defined as a 'greater than one in 75 chance of flood in any given year'.

"Unfortunately this risk applies not only to Hythe, but to many other parts of Romney Marsh where the standard of sea defence has been identified as low as one in five."

She added that while the Dymchurch defence was welcomed, unless other protection was put up at Romney Marsh it would have little impact.

"Rural areas are being left behind. If you look at Sandwich, which has more money and a denser population, there is investment.

"The need to improve or complete outstanding sea defences schemes on the marsh is now greater than ever – not only to protect lives and keep our communities safe from flooding, but also to ensure we are given an equal chance to insure our homes."

Mr Collins said a planning application had been submitted for a coastal defence.

The AA, which provides home insurance, has urged the Government to take decisive action to ensure all homes are able to get protection and insurance. A spokesman warned that insurers were growing concerned at the number of claims made due to extreme weather such as flooding.

He also warned that some insurers were advising people with flood-risk homes that they may not be able to renew their cover later this year as it would extend beyond June, 2013 – when the agreement runs out.

ABI's director general Otto Thoresen said: "We are running out of time to make sure people in high-risk areas are properly protected from the devastation flooding can cause and the ball is now in the Government's court.

"Insurers want to make sure that every home has access to affordable insurance, should the worst happen, and we're concerned that those people most at risk will lose out unless the Government considers a safety net."

A group of MPs on the Public Accounts Committee said this week it was unacceptable that people should be left in doubt and that flood protection should be a national priority.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) said minister Richard Benyon had met with the insurance industry to make sure flood cover remained widely available and to discuss what additional measures might help safeguard the affordability of flood insurance.

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MUSIC

Snaps of The Beatles found and developed after almost 50 years

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ONE of Britain's best known photographers has rediscovered some historic shots of The Beatles in action – and after an exhibition in Kent, they will be going on sale.

The series of five newly discovered photographs of John Lennon, Paul McCartney and George Harrison were taken a staggering 48 years ago by Faversham's John Farrier, who is due to photograph US president Barack Obama soon.

He was raking through old negatives and was stunned at what he'd found.

The pictures were taken at the Odeon Cinema in Lewisham during a live concert in December, 1963. They were developed with the help of modern day imaging technology and readied for display.

All five 20ins x 16ins Gelatin Silver black and white photographs will be on show for three weeks only at the Lilford Gallery, Palace Street, Canterbury, from February 11 until March 3.

They are sure to generate interest among Beatles fans, and the gallery boss David Lilford said they will go on sale for about £2,000 each.

Mr Farrier said: "I was going through the extensive archives of political and celebrity photographs I have taken over the past 20 years and came across a small battered negative box and found inside a number of scratched negatives.

"They had been taken on my father's Agfa camera when I was around 16, at a Beatles concert in Lewisham, south east London.

"Once I found out what they were, I sent them to my print master in London to investigate the possibilities for reproduction to large format prints.

"Sadly, the negative image of Ringo Starr was too damaged to reproduce a print, but after a bit of modern technology thrown into the process on the rest – the enlarged prints were ready to view.

"I was delighted with the atmosphere that came from the prints – just electrifying – the memories came flooding back – the screaming and hysterical madness lifting everyone off their seats at the concert. I Saw Her Standing There was ringing in my ears – my favourite number of that night.

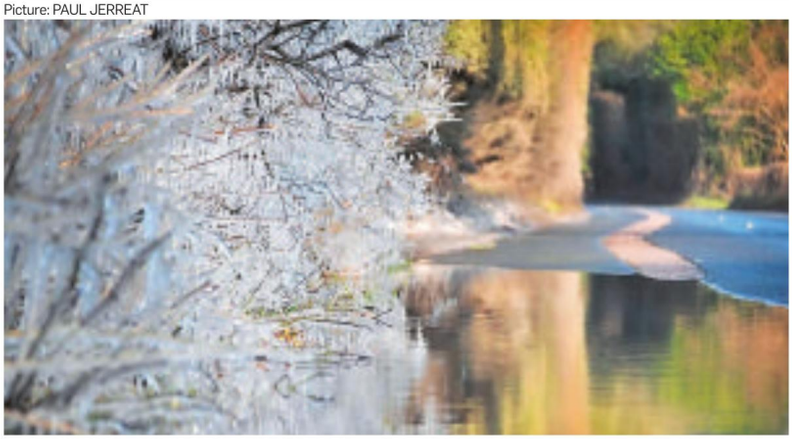
"To complete the unique collection, a separate photograph taken some years later of the group's record producer, George Martin, has also been included at the Lilford Gallery. This never before seen photograph was taken at Air Studios, with George at the recording console – a memorable occasion."

DEVELOPED: John Farrier discovered negatives of the pictures he took at a concert in 1963 and has now arranged for them to go on display for the first time

Mr Farrier is currently working on a series of exhibitions of his political photographs called Voices from Westminster, taken during the Margaret Thatcher era. An exhibition of his celebrity shots is also planned in London. This will include images of Sir Cliff Richard, Sir Tom Stoppard, Roald Dahl, Sir Jimmy Savile, Ernie Wise, Terry Wogan and Hardy Amies.

■ **For more news see www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.**

Picture: PAUL JERREAT



WEATHER

Snowfall predicted for this weekend

SNOW has been predicted for this weekend.

Press Association weather experts say that on Saturday temperatures in Kent could drop to -2C, and there could be a few snow showers, most frequently in the east of the county.

And on Sunday temperatures could fall as low as -4C and there could be snow across Kent, particularly in the morning.

This picture of a spectacular ice formation gives an idea of what might be in store this weekend. It was taken on Wednesday by the B2068, Stone Street, close to the village of North Leigh.

And health chiefs asked people to keep an eye the vulnerable during the cold weather.

Dr Gabriel Scally, director of public health for NHS South of England, said: "It's important to look out for our neighbours, and make sure they have all they need to help them through the cold spell. Check that elderly or more vulnerable people have at least one living area that's warm, their heating is working properly and they have food supplies in so they won't have to venture out."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Regeneration boost

THE South East Local Enterprise Partnership, which includes Kent, is to receive a £33 million boost ffor regeneration, development and infrastructure improvements.

In addition, housing minister Grant Shapps has confirmed Kent County Council will receive £2,838,576 of New Homes Bonus funding. This can be spent on regenerating town centres, reinvigorating treasured local assets, or reinvesting in local services and enterprise.

Pensioner dies in fire

AN 88-year-old woman has died in a fire at her Canterbury home. The blaze started of the first floor of sheltered accommodation in Station Road West at 4.45pm on Wednesday, according to Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

Around 20 firefighters were need to put out the blaze, which was brought under control just before 6pm.

The cause of the fire is being investigated, but police are not treating it as suspicious.

Rural free school plan

PROPOSALS to open a free school teaching a rural curriculum have been put forward by Hadlow College, which specialises in agricultural courses. The Tonbridge college wants to open the Rural Community School in September, 2013, with an 'outdoor classroom concept' and a practical approach to learning. Free schools receive public funds but are outside council control and set their own curriculum.

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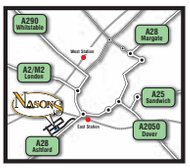

FUNERAL

Pictures: PAUL JERREAT

Laughter and cheers as county bids farewell to 'legendary' Dave Lee

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

FOR the man who brought so many smiles to the people of Kent, the funeral of Dave Lee was never going to be a sombre affair.

And just as the great Kent legend would have wanted, laughter and cheers rang out from Canterbury Cathedral as friends and family said farewell to the much-loved comic, who lost his battle with pancreatic cancer last month aged 64.

It was standing room only as more than 1,000 people packed out the cathedral on Monday, with many of his celebrity friends attending.

EastEnders star Shane Richie, former footballer Neil Ruddock and comics Jim Davidson, Joe Pasquale and Bobby Davro were just a few of the long list of stars to pay their respects.

Dave's daughter Debbie Glew, 42, said the family – sons Darren, 44, and Justin, 40, and his six grandchildren – had been overwhelmed by the support and love from everyone who knew the popular funnyman.

Speaking at the funeral, she said: "We never realised how much he was adored and how he had touched so many. He was the most beautiful, caring, selfless person anyone could wish for.

"Since he was diagnosed we have laughed, cried and had some fabulous times.

"He was chuffed when he was told he would be made Freeman of the City and I just know he would have taken a herd of sheep through the city.

"People say it's the good ones that are taken first. Dad's with the great comedians in the sky now."

But tears of sadness were soon replaced with tears of laughter as Dave's comedy pals took to the pulpit to share humorous anecdotes about their beloved chum.

Close friend and entertainer Richard Digance had mourners rolling in the aisles with his eulogy.

"Dave Lee was a big bloke; he was £2 million big and as big as Kent. I found it ironic that the day we lost Dave, 67 Little Chefs closed down."

Digance spoke fondly about his friend's charity work and the annual celebrity golf day which helped Dave Lee's Happy Holidays charity, which sends sick and underprivileged Kent children on holiday, reach the £2 million mark.

"He was the leader and we were the pawns," said Digance.

"We all had to attend Chart Hills and play golf to some sort of pathetic standard and he soon had us all involved.

"Jim Davidson, Shane Richie, Chas and Dave, Bobby Davro – more and more pawns joined his army. I wouldn't have been surprised to see the Queen herself in a golf buggy giving out steak rolls and Jack Daniels."

He added: "This is a big day for Dave – it would be a sad day if it was in silence. I think when we reach the end of this service let's give him the applause he so gladly deserves."

EastEnders actor John 'Nasty Nick' Altman – an old friend of Dave's – and pantomime producer Paul Hendy gave readings, while family friend Roger Hyder and former BBC Radio Kent presenter Barbara Sturgeon gave two short reflections about the work Dave did with his charity.

Actor and comedian Bobby Davro made a final short tribute.

"Everyone knew Dave was a funny man. He had bucket-loads of likeability and everyone loved him," he said. "How I remember him is not just his generosity, but his smile. As we think of Dave, let us think of him smiling. He brought so much joy into our world."

The service was led by the Dean of Canterbury, the Very Reverend Robert Willis, who said Dave was now reunited with his late wife Linda, who died five years ago.

During the service, mourners sang The Lord is my Shepherd, All Things Bright and Beautiful, and Jerusalem.

Celebrating his life, young choir boys even sang the Ghostbusters theme in memory of his famous 'bench sketch' – a regular feature of the Marlowe theatre pantomime where he performed more than 1,000 times over 16 years.

As the coffin was carried out, mourners took to their feet in rapturous applause and cheers which echoed out onto the streets of Canterbury.

The funeral service was followed by a private family cremation at Barham.

Dave, who lived in Canterbury, was made a Freeman of the City posthumously on Tuesday.

LAST LAUGH: Stars including (top clockwise) Bobby Davro, John Altman, Jim Davidson and ex footballer Neil Ruddock attended Dave's funeral

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Drop Terry as captain'

THE Tory MP for Folkestone and Hythe, Damian Collins, says it would be "totally inappropriate" for Chelsea footballer John Terry to stay as England captain while he faces a criminal charge of using racist language against Queens Park Rangers player Anton Ferdinand.

And the MP who is on the Select Committee for Culture, Media and Sport, added: "I think the question that should he play for England at all is a very important one."

Steel plant new hopes

ADMINISTRATORS looking for a new buyer for Sheerness steel plant Thamesteel say they have had 20 parties expressing an interest. The steel company went into administration last week – putting 350 of the 400 staff out of a job. Administrator Rod Weston said: "We've had 20 expressions of interest – some looking at keeping it going as a going concern, others interested in just parts of the business. We can offer no guarantees to workers, but obviously we're doing the best we can."

Race with Olympians

ASHFORD Olympic gold medallist and USA cycling coach Jamie Staff, is visiting his home town on Tuesday, April 14, with some of the American cycling team. They will be joined by local cycle champions for a ride through the Kent countryside and will arrive at the Julie Rose Stadium, for free fun cycling activities from 1-3pm when the cycling public will be invited to join in the fun.

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ART

First Turners on show at Turner

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@archant.co.uk

MARGATE'S Turner Contemporary is holding its first major exhibition of JMW Turner's work.

Eighty-eight of the artist's pictures are on show at the gallery until May 13.

Turner was a frequent visitor to the seaside town, spending time there as a child and again later in his life. He is said to have remarked to art critic John Ruskin that "the skies over Thanet are the loveliest in all Europe".

The show, Turner and the Elements, has a number of the artist's paintings of Margate and the north Kent coast.

It has attracted interest from media around the world and received rave reviews.

The works have been displayed on a theme linked to the elements as featured in Turner's work – earth, water, air and fire. A fifth section, fusion, shows how he tried to combine these together in his art.

It ranges from the more conventional water colours of his earlier work to the swirling masses of light and colour in his large oil paintings.

BY THE ARTIST: Eighty-eight of JMW Turner's works are on show

German co-curator Inés Richter Musso, who has spent four years compiling the exhibition, said: "Turner was a painter of the elements and the exhibition shows how he developed his characteristic style which was unconventional in his time.

"Turner was trying to capture the moments of an experience in nature and transmit this by the way he painted."

The collection of paintings has mostly come from the Tate Gallery in London with a few others from around the world.

It was shown in Europe before making its way to Thanet and this is the only time many will be seen in the UK.

Victoria Pomeroy director of the Turner Contemporary said: "This is a great time for us. We have been working on the Turner build for more than 10 years and to have an exhibition by the artist who spent so much time in Margate is a very special moment.

"This exhibition would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and ideas of many people. It takes a great deal of logistical thinking to put an exhibition like this together."

Another exhibition, Walk, is also running at the same time.

Created by Canterbury-based artist Hamish Fulton, it is a series of sketches, films and photographs based on his experiences of walking in many parts of the world.

Fulton has walked in more than 25 different countries and for two days in 2009 he was the oldest man to have climbed Mount Everest.

■ **All the news and sport at www.yourthanet.co.uk.**

CAMPAIGN

Protestors occupy seafront

A GROUP linked to the Occupy movement, which has held high-profile protests in New York and at St Paul's Cathedral in London, has camped outside the Turner Contemporary Gallery.

Occupy Thanet is part of the many protests emerging across the world campaigning against economic and social inequality.

A spokesman for the protesters said: "We are lucky enough to live in a beautiful part of the world. However we are ashamed that the High Street and seafront have been allowed to deteriorate.

"We fully understand that, during a recession, cutbacks do have to be made. However, this is not a recession, this is a robbery where capitalism has operated without constraint or conscience."

The campaigners have pitched their tents by the gallery's entrance steps.

A campaign against live animal exports from Ramsgate Harbour also staged a protest outside the gallery last October.

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News

BUSINESS

Enterprise scheme asks business and charity to co-operate for growth

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

DELEGATES from banking, local authorities, community groups, business and charities met this week to work out the best way to pool resources, boost the economy of the county and keep jobs in Kent.

Enterprising Opportunities, which facilitates links between companies, the voluntary sector and individuals in order to promote sustainable growth, held the sessions which took place at Kent Enterprise House in Herne Bay.

Those present said they saw the launch of Social Enterprise Kent as a sort of 'Big Society for business' as the organisers looked to show how co-operation and innovation can allow growth in a time of economic uncertainty, where previous methods of funding have dramatically decreased or dried up altogether.

"What we want to do is form partnerships between charities, community groups and companies," said Enterprising Opportunities director of resources Claudia Sykes.

"We want charities and community groups to decrease their reliance on grant funding which is ever-more uncertain at the moment.

"In the current economic climate opportunities do still exist – and greater innovation and co-operation can lead companies, and especially charities, away from a reliance and dependence on grants towards self-sustainability.

"Many small companies and community groups do not have the resources to do such things as effective marketing. But by working together they can use one another's abilities to work in co-operation to mutual benefit.

"When times are hard, that's when innovation needs to be at its height."

Among the 40 delegates at Tuesday's meeting were representatives of banks including HSBC, as well as local property developers.

Justin Chant is head of marketing for Enterprising Opportunities, which receives some support from Kent County Council, but is self financing thanks to the businesses which are under its umbrella.

JOINT EFFORT: Justin Chant and Claudia Sykes

"For smaller companies and charities this event was an opportunity for them to talk to those involved in the financial and property sectors," he said.

"Forming partnerships is what we consider important for sustainable growth."

Ms Sykes added: "Another important part of the work we do is keeping jobs in Kent. By focussing on local sustainable businesses we can achieve this. They are not multi-nationals who will pull out of Kent at the drop of a hat and take jobs elsewhere.

"An example of how we make these partnerships work was well demonstrated by the catering we organised for our event.

"Two groups – one that looks to provide jobs in Ramsgate and one which promotes healthy eating have joined together to set up a kitchen. Staff who work there provided the food for us.

"It was an effective way of showing our delegates how our ideas work in practise."

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ENTERTAINMENT

Unleash your inner GEEK at retro computer games expo

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT'S first major gaming expo has reached the next level.

Plans to put on the huge exhibition, backed by media partner Archant KOS Media, are steaming ahead and organiser Kate Kneale said: "It's all systems go."

And she's right. Retro gaming will be a huge slice of GEEK (Game Expo East Kent) 2012, held in Margate this month.

They have decided to set up various easy-to-follow zones, so gaming fans can quickly hunt down their favourite old school console.

In Green Geek will be Sega; Blue Geek is Nintendo; Yellow Geek contains the Best of British zone, such as Commodore and Atari; and finally Purple Geek contains the Playstation, Xbox and Obscura zones.

Ms Kneale said: "It is going to be so big that we felt people need an easy way to move around the halls."

There will be tournaments in The Pit and The Ring, and there's even a celebration of 25 years of Street Fighter and Final Fantasy.

Ms Kneale, who works from Marine Studio in Albert Terrace, Margate, said: "This is a pilot, we are hoping to make a big enough splash that it will be apparent that it should be an annual event.

"The idea is to create a core celebration of the last four decades of video games and consoles and around that build an expo which looks at future skills, education, and business opportunities.

"Beyond the Winter Gardens where it is being staged, we are encouraging venues to host game-related events so people coming into town can not only stay and play all day but can eat, drink, watch and talk about gaming and games well into the evening, too.

"We are still looking for people to come along and join in, be this as visitor, speaker, or sponsor. With the right backing, this can be a force worth reckoning with in the UK gaming industry."

SUPER: A Mario Kart tournament will be among the many events at the show

Ms Kneale added: "Britain has always been at the forefront of the video games industry, but never more so than during the 1980s.

"Whilst America and Japan were embarking on their plots for global domination, British computing and gaming was setting sail on its own adventure to revolutionise both living room and classroom.

"GEEK 2012 is proud to celebrate the outstanding companies and systems that put Britain firmly on the gaming map.

"Names like Acorn, Sinclair and Amstrad are easy to recall, but how about Dragon Data and Tangerine, or even Miles Gordon? These will all be represented at this amazing show."

The gaming festival runs during February half term from Wednesday-Sunday, February 15-19. For more information, visit www.geek2012.co.uk.

■ **See www.yourthanet.co.uk for more news and sport.**

CRIME

Protecting vulnerable

KENT Police Authority has responded to calls by Home Secretary Theresa May for forces to do more about anti-social behaviour. It says a new way of responding to calls about anti-social behaviour was introduced last year to help protect the most vulnerable people. Individuals most at risk of harm already receive a priority response and an officer is sent to vulnerable callers.

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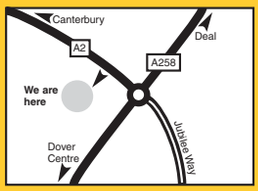

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EVENT

Free cruise to be won as travel and leisure show pulls in to Dover docks

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE hugely popular Travel & Leisure Show is set to return to the Dover Cruise Terminal next month for its fifth fantastic year.

The Archant KOS Media event will be held over two days to accommodate the demand from tour operators, cruise line companies, hotels, holiday promoters, tourist attractions and travel agents.

The show begins on Saturday, March 10 (11am-3pm) focused on group travel and the tourist industry, while the following day (10am-4pm) will be aimed at the public with presentations, films and talks, as well as children's entertainment.

Group travel can include sports clubs, community groups and schools all planning excursions, along with larger family trips, as those travelling as part of a group can obtain significant discounts – which they can learn about at the show.

The event offers the very best in tourism throughout the region and across the English Channel, and has attracted the cream of the UK's travel organisers, itinerary planners, tour operators and travel agents.

OFFERS: Fifth year for the travel event

Visiting the show and parking is free and there are many great prizes to be won.

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines is once again offering the main prize – a magnificent luxury cruise aboard either the Braemar or Black Watch sailing from Dover.

The show also features a selection of the great leisure opportunities and tourist attractions which exist throughout the south east of England and France.

These include environmental groups looking after the glorious countryside of south east England and world-class attractions such as the Historic Dockyard Chatham, and White Cliffs Country which looks after the iconic Dover coastline. Historical sites, gardens, museums, cruises and days out are all represented in this wide-ranging showcase of tourism talent and experience.

The towns of northern France such as picturesque Berck-sur-Mer, historic Arras and bustling Dunkirk, famous for its vital role in World War Two, will also be represented.

A newcomer this year is the Somme Battlefields' Partner network , which offers trips to the beautiful part of France which was the scene of life and death struggles between the British and Germans armies almost a century ago.

Steven Spielberg's epic film War Horse – which reaches its climax along the Somme – has bought the horror of the trenches and the bravery of the men who fought in them to a whole new generation, and this tour offer the chance to experience the land over which so much blood was spilt.

The France Zone gives information on short or long breaks, accommodation and leisure experiences a short hop across the water, and also offers the Flavours of France attraction where the world-famous produce of the area can be sampled.

■ **To read all the very latest news and sport headlines go to www.yourdover.co.uk.**

Man faces cat charge

A 20-year-old man will appear in court accused of causing unnecessary suffering to a cat in Ramsgate in October, 2011. Riain Richards, 20, of Ramsgate, is due before Canterbury Magistrates Court on Tuesday, February 28, at 11am.

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News

ARMED FORCES

Soldiers follow in footsteps of WWI heroes for charity

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TERRITORIAL Army personnel will march from Ashford to Ypres to remember the tens of thousands of Reservists who did the same trip during World War One.

But while 10 per cent of the fighters never came back and one in four were wounded, the 20 Kent soldiers should make the 213-mile round trip without any casualties.

It's the first time since World War One the feat is being attempted by the British military.

Captain Phil Linehan from the Ashford-based 133 Field Company REME (Royal Electrical and Mechanic Engineers) is organising the incredibly journey.

Capt Linehan said: "The sheer number that made the trip during the Great War is mind boggling, and the fact many never came back heartbreaking. More than one million British lives were lost in the Somme battles.

"We want to mark the bravery of those lads by doing this march ourselves. It will be a gruelling journey, but if they could do it, then so can we.

QUICK MARCH: Ashford's TA

"Many tens of thousands soldiers of the Reservists from around the UK were formed in Kent and sent to join regular battalions out in the battlefields and trenches of the Somme and in Flanders Fields, Ypres.

"Due to transportation and communication problems they often marched from Kent to Ypres, via the ports of Dover and Dunkirk.

"We are a group of TA soldiers who are going to recreate their feat, and fortunately we will not be fighting any battles or engaging in trench warfare when we get there."

The march starts on May 15 from the TA Centre, Chart Road, Ashford, to Ypres via Hythe Road going past the office of Kent on Sunday, and then on to Hythe then to Dover.

Capt Linehan said: "From there we will go by sea to Dunkirk and then march to Popperinge, which is twinned with Hythe and the Toc H, where many soldiers had their last respite before heading the last eight miles or so to the Menin Gate and the frontline."

Toc H is an international charity and membership movement that emerged from a soldiers' club in Poperinge, during the war.

Capt Linehan went on: "Then we will do the Belgium 62 mile march over three days and walk back to Ashford in time for tea on May 22.

"We are doing this to raise money for ABF The Soldiers' Charity. Following in their footsteps is one way we can show our amazement at their achievement."

■ **More news and sport at www.yourashford.co.uk.**

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News

EDUCATION

Preschool is going back to nature to teach young minds

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ENGLAND'S first forest school for youngsters aged between two and five has been set up in the county.

EarthCraftuk Community Interest Company operates in 300 acres of privately owned ancient woodland near Canterbury.

The land is owned by the Dawes family, who also own Mount Ephraim Gardens near Faversham, and youngsters will spend their days outside in the sun and the rain learning all about nature.

Director Clair Hobson said: "In essence we run outdoor forest school programmes and nature-based learning for children, young people, adults and families. Something we truly believe in the value of."

She added: "The philosophy of forest school is based on the desire to provide children with regular long-term experiences in the natural environment which helps develop levels of emotional intelligence – self-awareness, self-regulation, self-motivation, social skills and empathy."

She said building confidence and self-esteem along with physical skills was vital.

Ms Hobson said: "Our newest additional project is a full-time outdoor forest preschool for those aged between two and five, which will be open Monday to Friday, 48 weeks of the year.

"Inspired by Forest School's Scandinavian origins, this is the first full-time outdoor preschool offered in England.

"The 20 young children will be learning skills such as cooking over the open fire in the outdoor kitchen, growing an array of fruit, vegetables and herbs in the forest garden, making musical instruments, tracking animals in the forest, building forest shelters and letting their personal creativity run wild by using the natural sustainable resources around them.

"Surrounded by the inspiration of the forest, there is plenty of time for free play which allows the children to become familiar with the plants and animals that surround them.

"Nature stories, fairy tales and puppet shows kindle the imagination and affirm the magical feeling of the forest."

The idea is for children to be in daily contact with the elements throughout the seasons.

She said: "We are able to engage in the fundamental processes of life in a hands-on way and with a seasonal approach."

■ **Read all the very latest news and sport headlines at www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.**

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LITERATURE

Celebrations to be a tale of two centuries as Dickens' birth is marked across the county

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

LOCATIONS: Charles Dickens enjoyed visiting what is now called Bleak House in Broadstairs, right he is pictured at home in his Gad's Hill Place study

THE spotlight will shine firmly on Kent over the coming months as celebrations for the bicentenary of the birth of renowned author Charles Dickens take place.

Events are being held to commemorate the author's 200th birthday – which falls on Tuesday – with tourism chiefs hoping to see a major financial boost to the local economy.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive of tourism board Visit Kent, said the county was a must-see area for Dickens enthusiasts.

"We have so many places that you can identify in his books, so many places he stayed, lived and wrote, and so many events and attractions celebrating his life and work.

"Our research reveals that in a regular year 10 per cent of people using the Visit Kent website and then coming to the county are interested in Dickens and our literary connections.

"The value of literary tourism to Kent and Medway alone has been estimated at more than £1.6 million.

"Clearly, with the bicentenary celebrations and all the publicity for Dickens' work on television and radio, that is bound to grow considerably this year."

Kent played a huge part in the celebrated writer's life, with his father, who worked as a clerk for the Royal Navy, moving the family to Chatham from Portsmouth when Dickens was just three years old.

Despite moving to London aged 10, Dickens felt such affection for Kent that he moved back, buying Gad's Hill Place in Higham, near Rochester, in 1856.

Until his death in 1870, he became a familiar figure, walking energetically around the Medway towns, to and from Gravesend station or out on the Hoo Peninsula.

But his affection for Kent didn't stop there.

The author first visited Broadstairs aged 25, where he worked on The Pickwick Papers.

He returned to the town frequently until 1851, staying at his seaside residence, which has since been re-named Bleak House.

It was in Broadstairs that he found inspiration for the famous character of Miss Betsey Trotwood who featured in David Copperfield.

Oliver Twist, Nicholas Nickleby, The Old Curiosity Shop and Barnaby Rudge were also written in Broadstairs.

Medway, Canterbury and Gravesend – where Dickens spent his honeymoon with his wife Catherine Hogarth – were also the settings for scenes in his novels.

This year's Broadstairs Dickens Festival will run from June 16-22, with special events to commemorate his 200th birthday.

Charles Dickens School has also unveiled its new Dickens Theatre with a bust of the author inside.

A series of events, including talks, readings and theatre productions, will be held in Rochester and Chatham from February 6 to March 20.

Two large festivals will also be staged in June and December.

Medway Council's cabinet member for community services Cllr Howard Doe said: "We're very proud to celebrate Dickens' many connections with Medway in this special year, when the 200th anniversary of his birth is being commemorated all over the world.

"Many of our wonderful buildings which inspired Dickens still stand virtually unchanged today, making Medway the perfect place to celebrate and explore the great writer's works."

Original cheques, letters and other memorabilia from different periods of Charles Dickens' life, which feature in a collection at Fraser's Autographs in London, will be on show at Eastgate House, Rochester, between February 9-11.

Fraser's has also donated a strand of the author's hair which will be used by the Rochester and Chatham Dickens Fellowship in a lottery or raffle to raise funds for the Dickens Chalet Restoration Fund.

For more information about planned events go to www.whatsonmedway.co.uk and www.visitkent.co.uk.

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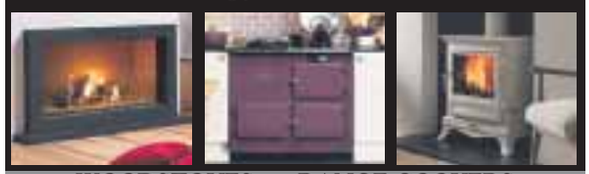

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News

CRIME

Gang who stole Jaguars and BMWs are brought to justice

By Chris Britcher
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A GANG of men who broke into houses while their victims were asleep to steal the keys to expensive cars parked on driveways have been jailed for more than 10 years.

Led by Zammo Wright, who was the instigator and planner, the organised criminal group were responsible for 19 break-ins across Kent and Sussex between September and November, 2010.

They focused on breaking into homes for the keys of high-value cars such as Mercedes-Benz, Jaguar, BMW and Audi.

Their arrest and prosecution is the result of a 16-month investigation by the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate.

Things started to unravel for the defendants when they widened their target area after only offending in Kent and south east London, and went further afield to west Sussex.

Police responding to a report of people acting suspiciously in Ifield, Crawley, in the early hours of November 11, 2010, found Arun Biring in the back of a Ford Fiesta. He was arrested and Darren Nicholson was caught the same day in Kent after officers stopped a stolen BMW.

Following further inquiries by detectives Wright was arrested on November 24, 2010.

Investigations then revealed a fourth offender, Grant Carter, who was subsequently arrested for handling the stolen property.

JAILED: Zammo Wright (left) and Grant Carter

Appearing at Maidstone Crown Court, Wright, 36, of Little Queen Street, Dartford, was jailed for four-and-half years. Co-defendant Carter, 31, of Voce Road, Plumstead, was jailed for two-and-a-half years and Biring, 19, of Hardinge Crescent, Woolwich, and Nicholson, 18, of Galleons View Road, Thamesmead, were sentenced to 20 months each in a young offenders' institute.

At a previous hearing on December 12, 2011, Wright, Nicholson and Carter all admitted to conspiracy to burgle. Biring pleaded guilty to conspiracy to handle stolen goods.

In total 18 vehicles were stolen but just six of them were recovered.

The burglaries included at addresses in Thamesmead, Wainscott, West Kingsdown, Hempstead Valley, Strood, Walderslade, Gravesend, Welling, Greenhithe and Canterbury.

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News

ANIMALS

Fewer pets being abandoned – but still cause for concern

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT is bucking the trend for the number of pets being abandoned by owners.

While the South East has the country's second highest number of offenders after the north – last year more than 5,300 helpless pets were dumped – in Kent the figure is going down.

However, in the first five days of the year, the region is already up to 77 – a shocking average of 15 a day.

In Kent the number of birds dumped went down from 16 in 2009 to six last year, and figures for cats, dogs, exotic animals, fish and mammals all declined. One of the biggest drops was for cats, from 132 in 2009 to 112 last year.

The total number of abandoned animals in Kent was 392 in 2009, compared to 239 last year.

But the RSPCA is warning against complacency and said pet owners must be aware of their responsibilities towards their animals.

DUMPED: Sabrina and Simone

Sometimes, owners at least make an effort to ensure the animals they are getting rid of are found.

But some cats and kittens have been discovered dumped in boxes just laying in the street. Others are left outside RSPCA rehoming centres.

One example is Sabrina and Simone who were found outside the gates of the RSPCA Woodchurch Animal Centre, where they had been dumped in a cardboard box.

Charity workers were horrified to see they were left with no food and water and were both riddled with fleas. Simone had reacted so badly to the fleas that her lips were swollen.

In other cases, people being evicted from their property have rung the RSPCA on the day of eviction to ask for their animals to be taken.

RSPCA Inspector Julia Fuller said other owners are not getting important vet treatment for their pets when they are sick, with lack of money being a prime reason.

According to the Animal Welfare Act from 2006, it is now a legal requirement for pet owners to meet the five basic needs of their animals, including giving proper shelter, food and water, freedom to behave as they should, and health protection.

■ **For more information visit www.rspca.org.uk/allaboutanimals/pets or phone 0300 1234 555.**

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TECHNOLOGY

At last – £20m investment to get superfast broadband all over county

HELP AT HAND: Good news for Kent's long-suffering internet users

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT'S notorious 'not spots' for fast internet broadband cover could soon be turned in to genuine 'hot spots' thanks to a multi-million pound investment from Kent County Council and the Government.

It was Tony Blair's Labour government that promised every home would get a fast internet connection, but so far little has happened for those situated in the county too far away from telephone exchanges and too isolated for fibre optic cables to be run.

With satellite internet failing to launch, it has been left to KCC and Medway Council to lobby for help to get things moving.

Now superfast broadband will now be coming to most parts of Kent after the Government agreed a £10 million package of funding to help make it happen.

Communications minister Ed Vaizey praised the enthusiasm of KCC and its Medway partner. He said as well as £630 million from Britain's government, another £100 million is coming from Europe to roll out the fast web infrastructure around the country.

Cllr Kevin Lynes, KCC cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, said: "This is very welcome news. Improving broadband connections for every part of Kent will be crucial in helping the county's businesses to be as competitive as possible. It will also help communities to stay connected.

"But this is not the end of the story. Kent County Council are providing £10m and, alongside this vital government support, we also need to persuade those who provide the broadband network to work with us in reaching every corner of Kent.

"So there is still work to do in showing the industry that it needs to invest right across the county.

"We won't see the benefits overnight but, in the longer term, this announcement and our partnership will keep Kent fighting fit for the rest of the 21st century."

Now the council is on the hunt for suppliers to spend its money with.

A spokesman said: "We are well aware some rural areas have very poor connections and are do want to reach them with this money. But we don't want to do that at the expense of those in more urban areas that also suffer from a connection that is simply too slow to be of use.

"These days, everyone should have access to a sensible speed over the internet and with this money we intend to ensure Kent residents have the very best."

Meanwhile, Virgin Media has recently announced many of its Kent customers will be seeing a potential doubling of their speed at some stage this year.

The Kent and Medway Local Broadband Plan will reflect the Government's new national broadband targets to make sure superfast broadband is available to 90 per cent of Kent and Medway and at least 2mb speeds to the remaining 10 per cent, and possibly faster in the near future.

FIRE

Embers safety plea after blaze

KENT Fire and Rescue Service is appealing to people to think carefully about where they dispose of hot embers.

The plea comes after an incident in Otford Road, Sevenoaks, when a resident tipped hot ash from an open fire over the fence, setting fire to undergrowth and bushes.

CRIME

Robbers attack man with iron bar

A 46-year-old man was assaulted in an attempted robbery in Deal. The victim was attacked as he walked home along Church Path at around 7.20pm last Thursday. His attackers demanded money before hitting him on the head four times with an iron bar. He had concussion, cuts to his left eye, and a fractured right cheekbone.

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Green Tourism GOLD

POLITICS

£14m government grant swings a council tax freeze at County Hall

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@archant.co.uk

KENT County Council will be freezing its part of the council tax this year.

The local authority has decided to accept £14 million from the Government offered as a one-off payment to keep council tax bills static.

This means residents living in a Band D property will pay £1,047.78p to County Hall for its part of the bill.

Some district councils such as Tunbridge Wells say they will decline the Government grant.

It has decided to raise its Band D bill by 3.3 per cent because taking the freeze grant will lead to a bigger funding gap in the long term.

However, KCC says it can afford to take the money.

Cllr John Simmonds, KCC cabinet member for finance and business support, said: "We are very conscious that householders are facing pressures and even before we decided to take the grant we were expecting not to raise council tax his year. We looked on this grant as a bit of a bonus."

The council's cabinet will be making their final decision on the budget on Thursday.

Cllr Simmonds said: "We have kept back £7.5m of the grant to put in our reserves.

"If we were using it just to cover our ongoing revenue costs then it could be a problem, because like other councils we may well have had to put up our council tax even more next year.

"There are things that come out of the woodwork. We may have six weeks of really bad winter weather which may mean we have a massive spend on gritting the roads and then the knock-on effect of repairing potholes."

However, the council still faces difficult economic pressures. It will get less money from government over the next two years and has to tackle rising inflation and estimates it will have to find £97m pounds of savings this year.

It has already cut more than 600 jobs and expects this to increase to a total of 1,500 posts in the next three to four years.

Despite this, KCC still has a large capital cost programme. It will invest £723m in capital infrastructure over the next three years. The money will be spent on schools and academies, public transport, social care and community facilities.

> **This money is a one-off payment that will not help in future years**
>
> CLLR GORDON COWAN, LABOUR

County Hall says it is also looking at ways that it can continue to save money in the medium term.

Keeping elderly people in their homes by using new technology such as Telehealth (in which patients' health is monitored at home to avoid them going into residential care) and moves such as using self-service systems in libraries will help reduce costs.

Cllr Simmonds said: "We are in a stage of transition, but just because less money is being spent it does not necessarily mean the public are going to get an inferior service. It might be different from the way we deliver it now but it does not mean services are being slashed."

Cllr Gordon Cowan, from the county council's Labour group, said: "One-off freeze payments are not sustainable within council tax budgets. Many county councils around the country are refusing them. This money is just a one off payment that will not help in future years.

"If you put a 2.5 per cent increase on council tax base rate this year you would be able to spend the £7m the council is putting in reserve for things like youth services and vulnerable adults which people want the money spent on now."

The police and emergency services have not yet decided what their portion of the council tax will be.

FUNDS: Cllr John Simmonds pleased with grant

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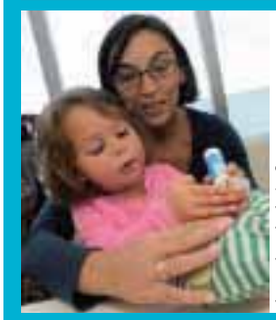

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News

POLITICS

Council leader ridiculed over 'shambolic' Green Belt U-turn

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A DRAMATIC U-turn over controversial plans to build on Green Belt land has been made after huge public outcry.

But despite welcoming the reversal, angry campaigners have questioned how much the "shambolic" consultation into the Gravesham plans cost and accused leader of the Labour-run borough council, Cllr John Burden, of a serious error of judgement.

Cllr Burden unveiled the contentious proposals last year, which outlined the development of up to 920 new homes on Green Belt land in areas including Meopham, Istead Rise and Culverstone as part of the area's draft Local Development Framework.

Thousands of people wrote to the council opposing the plans and in a shock U-turn Cllr Burden has recommended they be scrapped.

Cabinet member for environment at Kent County Council Bryan Sweetland called the saga "embarrassing". The Tory questioned how much the process had cost and accused Cllr Burden of "playing politics".

"He must be smarting after one of the most humiliating U-turns we have seen in local politics for many years," he said.

"Knowing his plan to build would not stand up to public examination, he has backed down saying 'I have listened to the people'.

"We should be asking why he decided to drive though this unpopular plan in the first place, when thousands of people told him not to."

Gravesham council had initially defended the strategy, stating the authority had to find a robust plan to help it remain in control of planning issues. However, Cllr Burden said he would recommend a new planning blueprint which would protect the Green Belt.

The sole exception to development in rural areas would be for much-needed housing for the elderly and care home facilities.

"We were obliged to put forward all the potential sites for development – even those we did not favour – and we took the flak from people who misunderstood our position," said Cllr Burden.

"I hope those people – and the many who supported the consultation process – now realise that we have listened to the community and we have taken decisions in their best interests."

Green campaigners from Protect Kent, the county's branch of Campaign to Protect Rural England, welcomed the about turn.

But former Gravesham council leader Mike Snelling, who welcomed the reversal, questioned the cost.

"A totally shambolic consultation which succeeded in creating angst, anger, fear and actual blight in our village communities," he said.

"Goodness knows how much this has all cost- an apology by the council leader to the residents would be entirely appropriate."

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

BYGONE DAYS: Bristol Fighter biplanes were a regular sight at Detling Airfield during World War One

Airfield of war heroes and Barbara Cartland

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE story of an airfield that was a station for the Royal Naval Air Service in World War One and the RAF during World War Two has been told in a new book.

Detling Airfield is now the site of the Kent Showground, but it was once home to the Sopwith Camel and Bristol Fighter biplanes of the 1914-18 conflict, and the legendary Spitfires, Hurricanes and Mustangs during the war against Hitler's Germany.

Aviation historian Anthony Moor, from Ashford, has written Detling Airfield: A History 1915-1959, which covers its earliest days through its role in World War Two – when several dramatic and tragic events occurred – and finally to more peaceful times, when the airfield became a popular base for recreational gliding.

Kent's North Downs was selected for an airfield as early as 1915 by the Directorate of Works, and levelling the fields was still in progress when the first aircraft arrived in June that year.

At first Detling was home to the Royal Naval Air Service, but by 1917 the Royal Flying Corps had taken it over.

Hangars were built and various units were based there until October 31, 1919, when the airfield was abandoned.

It was not until the late 1930s that the airfield was selected for expansion. It became a great strategic asset for the RAF during World War Two and, consequently, a popular target for Luftwaffe raids with many men and women losing their lives at Detling.

Mr Moor was educated at the Royal Naval School, Tal Handaq, in Malta, and went on to serve a five-year engineering apprenticeship with De Havilland-Hawker Siddeley at Hatfield, working on the Trident airliner.

The author of two previous books – RAF Brenzett ALG 1944, and Throwley Airfield 1917-1919 – he is currently working on a book about flying at Lympne.

"Detling was mainly a station through which aircraft were dispersed to other areas in World War Two," said Mr Moor.

WRITTEN WORD: Aviation historian Anthony Moor

"But it was extremely important during the Dunkirk evacuation when Fleet Air Arm squadrons of Swordfish and Skuas were based there.

"There was a lot of research involved in getting the book together and I used the archives at Kew, as well as the Imperial War Museum, the RAF Museum and the Fleet Air Arm Museum. I also made some personal contacts.

"I spoke to about 20 people who were at Detling during World War Two but, of course, the number of people with first-hand experience is decreasing year by year."

The book contains the unusual story that romantic novelist Barbara Cartland took off in a glider from Detling, as well as the poignant tale of Pilot Officer Joseph Ready.

"He was killed when his Blenheim aircraft crashed on take-off, but I got in touch with his family who live in Canada," said Mr Moor.

"They allowed me to reproduce a letter he'd written just a few days before his death which seems to say that he knew he was going to die.

"So many of those who lost their lives in both wars were just lads in their early 20s or even younger, and that is one of the real tragedy of the two world wars."

• Detling Airfield: A History 1915-1959 is available from branches of Waterstones and from publishers Amberley through orders@amberley-books.com, priced £18.99.

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OPINION

Wrong to shred Sir Fred?

Dave Mairs is confused by the honours system and wonders whether doing a bad job should be enough to demote you from 'Sir' to 'Mister'

THE gleeful response of a baying public to the stripping of Fred Goodwin's knighthood suggests the British honours system still means something to our fellow citizens.

Putting aside the feelings of spite or revenge harboured by many who can surely have at best only a passing acquaintance with the rigours of the financial world, there appears to be general agreement that the former chief executive of RBS, the bank he led to ruin and which cost the country more than £45 billion to bail out, does not merit the title 'Sir'.

So who does? It's a question that hit me just a month ago as I blinked disbelievingly at the TV screen trying to absorb the news that my constituency MP Roger Gale had been knighted.

Sir Roger has held the North Thanet seat since 1983 with a handsome majority. With due deference to Herne Bay, the constituency's principal town is Margate, a place that now epitomises seaside decline.

The title of Britain's most wretched high street brought national headlines, while all those nasty socio-economic indicators like unemployment, wage levels and deprivation continue to show Margate in a wholly gloomy light – despite recent improvements such as Turner Contemporary.

All Sir Roger's fault? Of course not, but he has hardly overseen a glorious period in the town's history. This has happened on his watch. A more demanding electorate and, it must be said, a more critical local press might have put paid to Sir Roger's tenure long before now.

Throughout it all, you wonder that if in his quieter moments Sir Roger raises a glass to the existence Thanet District Council, the local authority that for so long has drawn the ire of many of those it is meant to represent.

Its reputation was dragged through the mud a few years ago as both the former leader and deputy leader were found to have breached the council's code of conduct; a high-profile councillor was convicted of animal cruelty; and another forced by law to resign due to non-attendance at meetings, having spent much time abroad.

It was a woeful time in Thanet's history and, tellingly, three of those involved in the above indiscretions were North Thanet Conservatives – local politicians drawn from Sir Roger's own constituency party.

His perceived public silence over their behaviour was depressing and possibly not much help those trying to talk up Thanet.

Sir Roger has, I am assured, helped constituents with problems; he has performed useful work in the international arena; and I share his stance on animal rights.

Workings of honours system seem harder than ever to fathom

But, walking through the shell of Margate high street, or along the faded seafront, or in those parts of Cliftonville that are now more akin to a ghetto than the high-end resort it once was, I do not believe his record as North Thanet MP warrants a knighthood.

Which takes us back to Mr Goodwin. The award of a knighthood in the first place is questionable, but that's irrelevant. He has not been convicted of a crime, the usual reason knighthoods are lost, nor has there been any gruesome personal scandal. Rather, he simply did a poor job in his field of work. But who's to say that doesn't apply to any number of 'Sirs'?

The honours system has always been a law unto itself, but today its workings seem, to me at least, harder than ever to understand.

KOS COMMENT

Assurance is needed on homes insurance

AS IF things weren't bad enough with fears your home could potentially be flooded and your worldly possessions destroyed, now we're being told that from next year insurers are unlikely to touch flood-risk homes with a bargepole or, if they do, they will charge the earth to do it.

No surprise there then.

The Government and the insurance industry need to extend their pact to ensure homes are protected and insurance guaranteed. And, even more importantly, when flood defences are built, providing protection for flood-risk properties, insurance companies must make sure this is reflected in their bills rather than hitting long-suffering customers with yet more high costs.

Join the birthday party

LET'S make sure we all enjoy the celebrations of Charles Dickens' 200th birthday, for not only did he feature our towns in his novels, this was the place he chose to settle. Luckily for us, his affection for Kent means it will go down in history in some of the most famous and well-loved books ever written.

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ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Swan seen at Foots Cray meadows by Steve James

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Col Collins not on right track

I WOULD like to comment on Colonel Tim Collins wanting to be elected as the first police and crime commissioner.

First, may I say there is nothing wrong with the current system. It has been tried and tested over the years. Several heads are better than one.

Second, the question I would like to ask him is "who is going to pay for his Kent Police reserve?".

The council cannot afford to lose council tax and Kent Police are trying to save £50 million over the next four years. The only people left to pay for his new ideas are the ratepayers – eg, increases in council tax.

I am a pensioner and if any people need a reduction in council tax it is the pensioners.

Think again Col Collins.

Sheila Penman, Romney Marsh

Railways hold key to problem

EXCESSIVE numbers of lorries on long-distance journeys from the Continent undoubtedly burden Kent County Council with extra road maintenance costs (Foreign lorry levy 'must be spent on fixing roads', KoS, January 29).

However, a £10-a-day levy on foreign lorries would, on its own, simply raise money for the Treasury. It would not be enough to reduce the number of lorries on our roads.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter is optimistic if he thinks any of the levy would reach Kent Highway Services' budget.

Eurotunnel recently reported to the House of Lords that the Channel Tunnel is used only to 10 per cent of its capacity for freight.

There is also space for freight trains, for instance at night, on Kent's railways. This capacity is left idle simply because the charges offered to freight operators are too high.

Under-use of Kent's railways, and of the Channel Tunnel, for freight could be remedied quickly if the Government used proceeds from a levy on lorries to reduce freight charges on railways in recognition of environmental and social benefits.

The levy should be at a realistic level, considerably more than £10-a-day.

Finally, Kent needs money from the levy not only for road maintenance, but for rail infrastructure such as freight terminals. Not least, the Third Thames Crossing should include a railway line for freight traffic and for much needed extra commuter trains between Kent and London.

Frederic Stansfield, Canterbury

Relative needs recognition

IN response to the recent Kent Remembered article on Pacific Class locomotives, I would like to tell readers about my great-great-grandfather who contributed greatly to the railways.

John Saxby was one of the first apprentices at the Ashford works and trained to be a boilermaker.

Later in his career he was the first person to patent the interlocking rail system which went on to become standard throughout the industry and contributed greatly to the success of the rail network.

As his work was of great value I feel some sort of memorial should be placed in Ashford, especially if plans for a railway museum go ahead.

Bill Saxby, Canterbury

Supermarkets out of shape

LAURA Sandys is a great asset to the political scene in Kent.

She always talks sense, whether about Boris Island or mishapen fruit.

However, it is not the public to blame, it is the supermarkets themselves who insist that every tomato, apple, pear or whatever is the same shape and size as every other.

Personally, I never buy fruit in supermarkets, one gets better quality at a lower price in greengrocers.

Elizabeth Lonkhurst, Folkestone

Keep out of Kent, Boris

THANK you for including the article on the latest position on the proposed new airport.

Every time I hear the airport proposals being mentioned I get quite angry, so apologies.

My biggest objection is to the influence of the Mayor of London on this decision. I do not understand what right he has to make decisions for Kent.

We did not have a say in his election and cannot make any legal objection to his role as mayor, yet it is our homes and lives which will be most affected by his plans. If he wants a London airport, let him find somewhere in London to put it.

I find it amusing there are already four designated 'London' airports, only one of which is within the area.

Stanstead, Gatwick and Heathrow are all a significant distance from the destination of most foreign travellers coming to London. A new airport on the Hoo peninsula would hardly help that situation.

As anyone who has had to commute from Medway to London knows, the present transport links are woefully inadequate to take the current number of travellers. Add an airport full of tourists and workers trying to get into or out of London (and anywhere in between) and the roads will come to a standstill.

The so-called high-speed rail link is only high-speed between Ebbsfleet and Stratford, and still runs on the same lines as the standard trains which are not overly frequent and are often overcrowded. Any plans for an airport would have to include upgrades to the infrastructure, which would widen the devastating effects of the airport along the entire route.

Yes, an airport would provide employment opportunities in an area with a high unemployment rate, but it is certain that many of the new jobs would be filled by people from outside the area with the apparent skills and experience which the locals are not seen to have.

The detriment for those living in the area would also be significant – for example, who wants to buy a house near an airport (assuming your house isn't one that has to be demolished to build the airport or new road)? All this in addition to the significant environmental issues.

I think my daughter made the best argument against the new airport, however. She pointed out that Britain has no money, so why are they considering spending another £70bn they don't have to build a new airport?

I don't claim to be an economist, but the figures just don't add up.

It just has the feeling of being a bit of retail therapy – we're depressed, so let's go out on a spending spree and get ourselves a new toy.

Meryll Lacy, Medway

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Editor: Ian Patel
Address: Apple Barn, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS
Editorial:
Telephone 01303 817100;
Fax 01303 817002;
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising:
Telephone 01303 817150;
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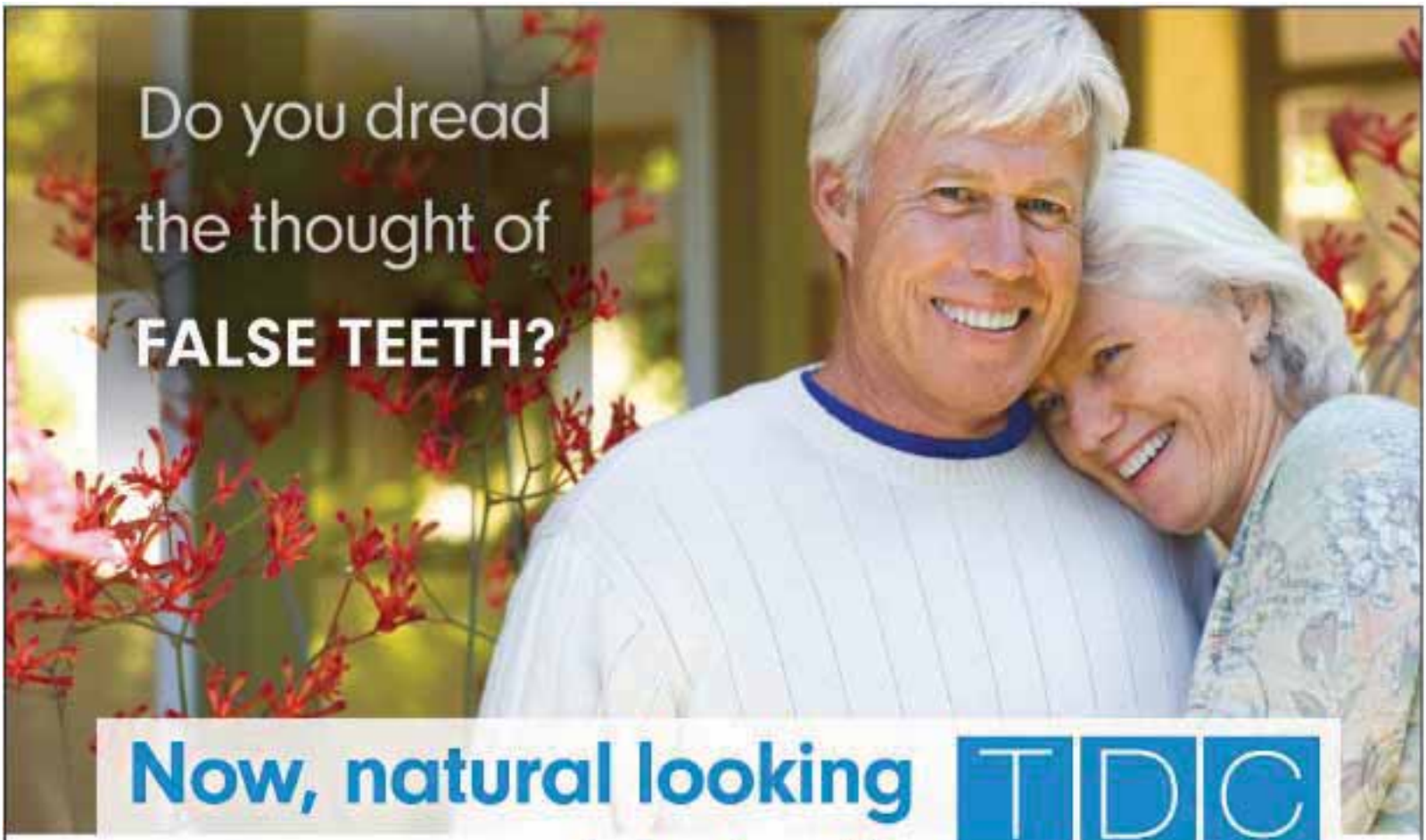

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Your business is our business

Hornby shares take a tumble

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

STRUGGLE: Toymaker Hornby has been hit by lower-than-anticipated sales, with shares and profit expectations suffering as a result

SHARES in Hornby have fallen after the firm, which makes Scalextric sets and Airfix models, warned that poor Christmas sales would hurt full-year profits.

The Thanet company said that fewer sales of its high-end train sets during the traditional toy-buying period would drag pre-tax profit expectations down from £7 million to £5million for the 12 months to March 31.

The news knocked 15 per cent from Hornby shares, which fell 18.5 pence to 105 pence.

In a statement to shareholders, senior management said UK sales growth had been "muted" – although overall sales were ahead of the period for last year.

"Sales of higher-ticket Hornby and Scalextric sets before Christmas were disappointing," Frank Martin, Hornby chief executive, said, putting the decline down to "a lack of willingness to spend on relatively high-ticket items".

The warning ended a run of recent positive news for Hornby, which reported an 82 per cent increase in first-half profits reported in November.

Hornby, whose brands include Electrotren, Lima, Jouef and Corgi, posted the higher first-half results as a result of London Olympics-themed model trains, as well as the solution to a supply problem in China.

However, the toymaker suffered a similar fate to many UK retailers over the Christmas period as consumers avoided expensive purchases – such as Hornby's East Coast Pullman digital train set that retails for £275. Chairman Neil Johnson said: "The challenging economic environment impacted UK sales negatively pre-Christmas.

"In anticipation of continuing difficult trading conditions, we have adapted our business to offer a wider range of products at lower price points in categories complementary to our core business.

"We maintain an undiminished focus on the development of our core ranges while continuing to broaden our product range, appeal and geographic reach. It is, however, proving extraordinarily difficult to predict sales accurately in these turbulent markets.

"The successful acquisition of a number of important global licences reinforces our mission statement: to be the most successful model, hobby and collectable-toy company in the world."

The company has responded to poor consumer sentiment by introducing cheaper train sets and last week showcased its offerings for 2012 at the London Toy Fair.

New products include Scalextric Star Wars toys to coincide with the reissue of the movies in 3D format, collectable Corgi models costing £1.99 and preschool items based on the TV series Olly The Little White Van.

The profit warning comes in spite of the firm receiving a £1m boost in first-half turnover from Olympic-themed toys, which include a model railway set based on the high-speed Javelin shuttle that will run from Kings Cross station in London to the Olympic park.

Mr Martin said the benefits from the Olympics would continue throughout 2012, contributing "a couple of million" pounds to Hornby's earnings.

Jon Copestake, retail analyst at the Economist Intelligence Unit, said: "Hornby's results reflect the changing nature of demand for toys. Although the Hornby brand is steeped in nostalgia for many adult consumers, the prevalence of console gaming has made it something of an anachronism for younger consumers.

"It is difficult to see how Hornby products can operate as more than collectable or niche items, outside the mainstream, going forward."

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Cautious optimism from directors in face of double-dip recession fears

KENT'S company directors say they are "cautiously optimistic" about the economy – despite the worse-than-expected Gross Domestic Product figure.

Commenting on the latest GDP figures, which showed a decline of 0.2 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2011, Andrew Metcalf, vice-chairman of the Institute of Directors' Kent branch, said:

"While the national statistics show cause for concern, we feel the GDP for October to December may not accurately reflect the economic situation in Kent as the feedback we are receiving from our members gives us reason to be cautiously optimistic.

"At our recent IoD Kent MD (Managing Directors) Strategy Forum the consensus was one of growing confidence this quarter as business builds strongly in January.

"There was also a widespread recognition that the Kent business community has to make things happen for itself, investing time and effort in building partnerships and links across the county and beyond."

But other economists remain cautious and have warned the economy could continue to shrink in the early part of this year, causing the UK's first double-dip recession since the 1970s.

Graeme Leach, chief economist at the IoD, said: "We've taken one step towards a double-dip recession, and it's now probably 50-50 as to whether we'll take the second, with a fall in output this quarter as well.

"It's important to stress that the 0.2 per cent fall in GDP is not large and could be reversed.

"The tipping point remains economic developments in the eurozone. If the euro crisis gets worse, sustaining UK recovery looks almost impossible."

FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURE

Risk assessment to help businesses prepare to cope with climate change

A NEW Government initiative could help Kent's land-based businesses cope with climate change, according to an environmental monitoring body.

The Country Land and Business Association (CLA) says the first-ever Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) will highlight key issues.

The CCRA covers 15 sectors, including forestry and agriculture, and sets out the future that farmers and land managers will face, such as changing weather patterns and increased pests and disease.

CLA South East regional director Rupert Ashby said: "This is a crucial and welcome first attempt. Meeting these challenges will require new management skills with support from better technology and guidance to allow forestry and agri-businesses to effectively adapt to climate change."

Mr Ashby said the land-management sector in the South East could make a big contribution towards adapting to climate change and highlighted how farmers and foresters could help.

He said: "The report particularly emphasises the need for more research into the effects and adaptation strategies for the forestry sector. The Government has so far failed adequately to fund forest research, which is working to combat the pests and diseases threatening our trees."

The CLA, with other key bodies, helped the Government develop the forestry and agriculture risk assessments and reviewed the final forestry assessment. The association insisted the Government take a strong approach to developing business opportunities around climate change for both sectors.

HAVE YOU GOT A BUSINESS STORY? Telephone editorial on 01303 817181 or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Call for action as small firms fear for economy

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

CONFIDENCE among small businesses plummeted last year, according to a new report.

This drop was a result of businesses being hit by high inflation, rising utility bills and reduced consumer spending power, according to the latest findings from the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) Voice of Small Business Index.

The index, comprising some 1,600 responses from businesses across the UK, recorded a score of 24.5 – the lowest level since the index started in 2010 and a fall of some 15.2 points over the quarter.

Given that business investment is key to creating jobs and supporting the recovery, the ongoing weak sentiment is worrying.

In Kent, the 2011 Autumn FSB Small Business Barometer also showed reduced confidence, with a fall in the proportion of businesses in Kent and Medway responding to the survey forecasting improved performance in 2012, dropping from 70 per cent to 66 per cent

And, with one in eight (12.6 per cent) of firms expecting a worsening economic situation in the coming three months, the FSB is calling on the Government to act on policies and initiatives already announced to help boost small-business confidence so that they can invest and grow.

While the short-term prospects look weak, an improving inflation outlook will certainly help confidence over the year. Inflation is expected to fall back sharply this year as the impact of 2011's VAT rise lessens, with recent energy price cuts an encouraging sign inflationary pressures are finally easing.

Falling inflation should help cash-strapped consumers and give more room for discretionary spending. Businesses will benefit, too, as the cost pressures of 2011 fade, which should feed into better margins and improved profitability.

Reforms announced by the Government should also help. The FSB has supported many of the policies outlined in the Growth Reviews and the Autumn Statement, such as measures to encourage bank lending to small businesses and boost investment through the seed enterprise investment scheme. Proposed reforms to the planning system and Government procurement contracts to increase small firms' access were steps in the right direction, too, says the FSB.

However, many of these measures will take time. The FSB says the key for all levels of Government is to focus on implementation: small firms need to see action to match the rhetoric and see actions to benefit their businesses and permanently change the business environment for the better.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "The message is clear – things are going to get worse before they get better. But we are hopeful that as the inflationary pressures lessen in 2012, businesses will become more confident. There are some good policy proposals in the pipeline, too.

"However, the Government needs to quickly put in place the actions that it has promised.

"Small firms have heard what the Government has to say but are still waiting to see implementation. We believe that must be the Government's priority: to make 2012 the year of doing, with the aim of creating a dynamic business landscape in which our entrepreneurs can grow and flourish."

STRUGGLE: The FSB wants to see Government action, rather than just words, and make some necessary reforms

FREIGHT

Delivery advice programme is launched ready for the Olympics

A SUPPORT package to help freight operators and their customers continue to operate effectively during the London 2012 Games has been put together by Transport for London.

At the centre of the package, called TfL's Freight Advice Programme, are 230 free workshops aimed at businesses in Games transport 'hot-spot' areas that receive freight deliveries, and those companies that deliver to them.

Included in the list are events in Bexley, Dartford, Maidstone and the Medway towns.

The free workshops run until the end of April. Kent's dates are still to be confirmed.

To apply for a free workshop place, businesses should visit www.tfl.gov.uk/2012.

London's transport commissioner, Peter Hendy, said: "Ensuring London's supermarkets, restaurants and pubs remain stocked this summer will be critical to the overall success of the London 2012 Games.

"Businesses based in transport 'hot-spot' areas that make or receive freight deliveries need to start planning now to ensure they continue to operate effectively – and profitably – next summer.

"Our new programme of workshops and tailored advice for freight operators and their customers greatly enhances the support package already on offer to help businesses of all sizes stay one step ahead during the Games.

"I'd like to urge all businesses in affected areas, and the freight companies that deliver to them, to take advantage of the hundreds of free workshops starting this month and log on to www.tfl.gov.uk/2012 to book a place."

Sarah Bell, lead traffic commissioner for Olympic delivery, said: "The Traffic Commissioners for Great Britain are delighted TfL are offering these seminars and urge operators to take advantage of the opportunity to assist their preparation and planning for the commercial opportunities that the Games will bring.

"The very experienced TfL freight team have worked closely with Traffic Commissioners, the trade associations and other partners to produce a wealth of information in a user-friendly format.

"The seminars will offer a practical insight into how best to use that information and ask questions directly relevant to particular business sectors."

Kate Gibbs at the Road Haulage Association said: "We welcome this move by TfL to help haulage operators at such a critical time and we shall certainly be urging our members to take advantage of the practical advice and information available.

"An effective, cost-effective and efficient transport network is crucial to the success of the Games – this initiative will ensure operators are fully prepared."

Stoves store celebrates expansion into new showroom

THRIVING business Heat and Home has opened a new showroom in the Medway towns and is offering customers a personal consultation.

The company is based at 84-86 King Street, Rochester, and on the first Saturday of every month it holds an open day so people can talk to its engineers.

The new showroom will highlight the wood-burning stoves on offer.

Heat and Home offers stoves from UK manufacturers including Charnwood, Future Fires, Stratford Ecoboilers, Esse and Portway as well as Danish brand Westfire. Its staff can supply as well as fit the appliances.

The company is a HETAS-registered installer and so has the approval of the governing body for solid fuel.

It is also set to establish a Youtube channel – www.youtube.com/heatandhome – for maintenance advice.

Experts call for more, not less, work experience for our teens

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE Forum of Private Business has expressed concern at Government proposals to scrap mandatory work experience for GCSE pupils.

The not-for-profit support group warned in a letter to the Department for Education – which is consulting on plans to remove the statutory requirement for Key Stage 4 (14- to 16-year-old) pupils to complete at least two weeks of work experience – that doing so will further reduce the number of work-ready youngsters entering the job market.

The Forum said that, far from removing the current provision, the Government should be looking at expanding work-experience placements to further ready youngsters on the brink of starting their working lives.

Head of campaigns Jane Bennett said: "We believe work experience is vital in helping to prepare young people for the world of work.

"There's no better place than a proper working environment to test out a career choice, and it's also by far the best arena for young adults to learn the skills so critical to success.

"If small businesses in the private sector are to lead job creation and tackle unemployment, they need a better labour force that includes young, ambitious and talented individuals who know what it takes to thrive in the workplace.

"Our training and skills-panel research shows members already believe young people in the UK are largely unprepared for the workplace. New-starters frequently arrive with few or no basic skills and need guidance on even simple things such as appropriate dress code and punctuality – the very basics of a work ethic.

"Business-owners frequently point out that young people are taught no first aid or health and safety skills, and together these types of inadequacies make them very resource-intensive.

"Our research with businesses also identifies poor attitude as a common problem. Class hours and a lenient view of absence during their schooling often means many new-starters are unwilling to work unsocial hours, get up early or even make it in on time.

"Owners have also cited instances of new recruits refusing to carry out menial tasks they considered beneath them.

"Quite frankly, we need more work experience, not less, to help break down these types of immature mindsets and attitudes.

"Work-linked learning can also be extraordinarily powerful in engaging students who are bored or turned off by conventional classroom teaching.

"It's hard to see how any plan to reduce work experience for school pupils fits with the Government's pledge to significantly increase the number of apprenticeships."

The Forum's letter does, however, welcome the Government's proposals to improve vocational programmes for young people, which it says is vital to fulfil employee requirements of small firms. It also welcomes plans for improved links between educators and local business leaders.

VITAL: The Forum of Private Business says experience is vital for preparing children for the workplace

RECOGNITION: DFDS's Chris Newey is thrilled by the award

AWARD

DFDS on top of the world

DFDS Seaways has been named the World's Leading Ferry Operator at the World Travel Awards in Doha, Qatar.

The cruise-ferry operator fought off competition from New Zealand, the Baltic Sea and a number of European rivals to claim the trophy.

More than 210,000 travel-industry professionals and consumers voted in this year's World Travel Awards, which are recognised worldwide as the Oscars of the travel industry and the premier industry-awards programme.

The ferry company puts the success down to its quality onboard offering and exceptional customer service, as well as its comprehensive passenger route network, which incorporates English Channel, North Sea and Baltic routes, making it a convenient way to access Europe and Scandinavia.

Chris Newey, passenger director for the English Channel, DFDS Seaways, said: "This award is great news and recognition of our excellent customer service and value for money across all of our routes, and we are delighted to receive this accolade.

"In addition to this award, we were also named by the consumer body Which? as its only Recommended Provider for ferry travel, thanks to the company's ongoing commitment to quality and the hard work and dedication of our staff in providing an exceptional experience for our customers onboard and ashore."

This year's regional heats of the World Travel Awards included events at Dubai (Middle East); Antalya, Turkey (Europe); Sharm el Sheik, Egypt (Africa and Indian Ocean); Bangkok, Thailand (Asia and Australasia); and Montego Bay, Jamaica (Caribbean and the Americas).

The awards, which were founded in 1993, acknowledge excellence across all sectors of the global travel, tourism and hospitality industry.

TAX RETURNS

Helping to get you through the confusion of red tape

IT IS now possible to get help when filling in your corporation tax returns.

From April 1 last year, all corporation tax returns have to be filed online with the computation and accounts attachments in a new iXBRL format devised by HM Revenue & Customs.

Many businesses are still finding the conversion cost prohibitive when using their regular tax advisers, especially if their existing accounts have been produced in Word or Excel format.

To help overcome the problems, McBrides accountancy, based in Nexus House, Sidcup, has developed a dedicated in-house iXBRL team.

Using a specialised software-supplier, the team is able to offer a much more cost-effective alternative, which will ensure that all accounts are tagged correctly, irrespective of how complex they might be.

It then tests the filing system, using HMRC's own testing facility, so that clients can rest assured their returns have been correctly filed.

Partner Andrew Warren, left, head of the McBrides iXBRL team, said: "iXBRL sounds frightening but in reality is a way of translating financial information into an electronic format. Each item is given an individual tag or code, which is readable by a computer when displayed in web-page format (HTML).

"From April 1, it has been compulsory for all companies, clubs, societies and associations to file their corporation-tax returns online using the iXBRL data standard. PDF attachments or paper are no longer acceptable. This is proving a burden to some organisations, not to mention prohibitively expensive for the smaller clubs and societies."

To ease the transition, McBrides says that its package is being offered at very competitive rates.

ACCOUNTS

Stay prepared and avoid being stuck under stigma of red light

A PILOT initiative by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to target businesses with badly-organised books and records is being extended as part of the Government's latest tax clampdown, accountants have warned.

The traffic light-themed initiative sees HMRC officers visit businesses to check a random sample of their sales, purchases and expenses records. Depending on the quality of the records, the business is awarded a red, amber or green 'light'.

Businesses with good records will be given a green light and no further action will be taken. Those whose books contain minor inadequacies will receive an amber light, advice on what action to take and, potentially, a follow-up meeting.

John Moore, business services partner at Maidstone-based DSH Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors, said businesses should go out of their way to avoid a red light.

He said: "The red light means your records contain significant failures and will lead to a further visit from Revenue and Customs and a potential £3,000 fine.

"We are therefore advising firms to apply best practice to their business accounting procedures to ensure they are not stopped in their tracks by a red light.

"Companies can take a free business-records test on the Business Link website.

"The 'Find out what records you should be keeping on a business' questionnaire will help businesses evaluate the adequacy of their records.

"They can take the test and discuss any shortcomings with us or alternatively allow us to undertake a critical review of their records ourselves."

National Apprentice Week

FEBRUARY 6-10

In association with Thanet College Training Solutions

Apprenticeships are good news all round

THANET College is calling on all businesses in east Kent to take on an apprentice this year in an attempt to tackle the continued rise in youth unemployment, which has led to Thanet having the highest rate of youth unemployment in the South East.

The numbers of young people who are unemployed have reached the million mark, the highest in 20 years, as it's becoming tougher and tougher for young people to enter the job market.

One way in which local businesses can take on a young person is through an apprenticeship, where the employer gains someone bespoke to their needs and in a cost-effective way, and the employee gains on-the-job training, vital job-specific skills and qualifications crucial to their career progress.

Apprenticeships can bring increased productivity and develop a workforce needed both now and into the future, bringing fresh talent and new thinking and filling skills gaps.

Thanet College's business division, Training Solutions, can offer assistance in achieving this.

David Foley, chief executive of Thanet and East Kent Chamber of Commerce, says that Training Solutions is making taking on an apprentice easier than ever.

"Nine out of 10 companies in Thanet have fewer than 20 workers.

"In the past, these firms may have dismissed the opportunity to take on an apprentice as being too cumbersome, too time-consuming, or too much like hard work.

"With the procedures being outlined by organisations such as Training Solutions at Manston, the administrative burden is significantly reduced so that even quite small enterprises can see an immediate benefit.

"We urge companies in Thanet to consider the new apprenticeship schemes and so discover how their operations, margins and future prospects can be improved with the addition of an on-site apprentice," he said.

Thanet College recently launched its first-ever Apprenticeship Academy, offering positions that provide training in a real workplace across the college, including in business administration and catering.

The initiative aims to run an enhanced apprentice recruitment campaign throughout 2012, seeking to ensure businesses are more aware of the advantages of taking on a young apprentice.

The academy's launch is tying in with National Apprenticeship Week, taking place from February 6-10, an annual event which aims to highlight the wide range of apprenticeships available throughout different sectors, presenting the numerous benefits that come with it.

Jo Gideon, chairman of the Thanet Works Board, thinks that apprenticeships are a fantastic way to start a career.

"Apprenticeships are a great way of giving people a combination of work experience and the chance to study for nationally recognised qualifications," she said.

Thanet College is committed to demystifying and simplifying the process of employing an apprentice and has a dedicated employer-engagement team at Training Solutions.

East Kent has a high-skilled and committed workforce, and there has never been a better time to take on an apprentice.

ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA supports the efforts of **Training Solutions & Thanet College** apprentice schemes

STARTER MOTORS: Karl has enjoyed his time working at the garage

Karl showing drive to suceed

MOTOR vehicle apprenticeships are on offer at Victoria Volkswagen and have been a great success with those looking to improve their experience in auto work.

Karl Arthur works as an apprentice at Victoria Volkswagen Garage, Broadstairs, and gained a City & Guilds Motor Vehicle Level 2 at Thanet College. He is now working on his Level 3 Institute of Motor Industry qualification.

He said: "The highlight of my college experience is being accepted on this apprenticeship.

"It's such a great opportunity as it allows me to experience the real working environment while gaining my qualifications, allowing me to understand the trade and perform to my full potential, at work and college.

"Being accepted by such a reputable garage was also a massive achievement, as I am trusted to keep the professional image which they thrive on."

De-mystifying Apprenticeships

Taking on an apprentice can be one of the most cost effective and rewarding ways of employing a new member of staff.

Businesses report that skills shortages are an even greater threat to future success than other factors such as the economic downturn or rising fuel costs. Apprentices are a proven way in which to address these skills needs.

Businesses across the country large and small, from both the private and public sector agree that employing an apprentice can significantly improve profitability and productivity, introduce new ideas and help develop a motivated and loyal workforce. If over 130,000 businesses already employ apprentices - isn't it about time you found out how they can benefit your business as well?

Why not drop in to see us during National Apprenticeship Week and chat through your skill and staff needs. We will attempt to dispel some of the myths and misconceived barriers surrounding the scheme, helping you go forward to greater success.

7th February
9.00 - 11.00am & 4.00 - 6.00pm

4 - 5 Invicta Way, Manston Park
Ramsgate, CT12 5FD

training.solutions@thanet.ac.uk 01843 821580

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Sponsoring National Apprenticeship Week in conjunction with Archant KOS Media

National Apprentice Week

FEBRUARY 6-10

In association with Thanet College Training Solutions

'Youth Contracts' offer hope to our many unemployed young

THE Government has recently announced plans to invest £1 billion to help tackle the growing problem of youth unemployment.

With this comes the introduction of the 'Youth Contract' to provide apprenticeships and work experience for almost half a million young people over the next three years.

The initiative plans to help businesses give jobs to young people aged 18-24, and also help unemployed young people to get a work experience place.

For businesses that take on a young person registered on the Work Programme of Jobcentre Plus, there will be 160,000 job subsidies available worth up to £2,275 each.

There will be an extra 20,000 incentive payments, worth £1,500 each, available to employers that take on young people as apprentices.

Some 250,000 work experience places will be on offer over the three-year period to every 18- to 24-year-old who requests one. More regular meetings with Jobcentre advisers, and a National Careers Service interview, are also part of the package of new measures.

A total of £150 million of support will also be targeted at some of the UK's most vulner-able 16- to 17-year-olds. The programme will aim to assist some of Britain's one million NEET's (16- to 24-year-olds not in employment, education or training) into education, an apprenticeship or a job with training.

Thanet College's Training Solutions supports these new initiatives, aiming to offer businesses the help they need when taking on apprentices, simplifying the process for both employers and the apprentices themselves.

South Thanet MP Laura Sandys supports the initiative and when asked about the Youth Contract she said "This initiative was critical in enabling young people who are struggling to secure their step into the jobs market gain vital experience of the workplace".

Ms Sandys hopes the Youth Contract would also help encourage businesses to consider taking on a young person either for work experience or as an apprentice.

She said: "The workplace is a very different environment in its demands than that of education and training, and young people need to be given the opportunity to experience this for themselves.

"The Youth Contract will help provide life- and work-relevant skills and knowledge that will assist young people as they go forward in seeking and securing future job opportunities, something sadly missing at the moment."

With levels of youth unemployment continuing to rise, she urged all businesses in Kent to consider responding to the opportunities offered via the Youth Contract and contribute to improving this situation.

START: Employees are urged to join Youth Contract scheme

Students find joining academy a truly rewarding experience

THANET College launched its new Apprenticeship Academy on January 16 in its Bay View Restaurant.

The first-ever group was handed some nice extras that come from being an apprentice at the college, including lunch vouchers worth £2.75 a day, a £20 voucher for the college's Trilogy Salons and up to £100 clothing allowance for any work clothes needed. They also received a free netbook computer and pen drive, which they can keep on completion of their apprenticeship.

The eight new apprentices were also informed of the benefits they are entitled to, such as careers advice and support throughout their apprenticeship, as well as the opportunity to attend business events outside college.

Charlie Frewin, who works as a business-administration apprentice in the technology department, was pleased with the benefits he and his fellow apprentices received.

He said: "I'm really enjoying my apprenticeship at the college, and it's great to receive the netbook. It will help me get on with both work and studying."

The new academy aims to give apprentices the opportunity to gain hands-on experience and learn job-specific skills while they study to gain vital qualifications.

Kirsty Bryant, head of Training Solutions, said the academy would hold valuable benefits for those taking part.

She said: "The new Apprenticeship Academy at Thanet College is recognition of earning while learning, and the support that is needed from the employer to ensure that an apprenticeship is a development programme with benefits. The apprentices will work on projects together for the benefit of themselves, the college and the community."

KENT Choices

Parents Evenings

FREE advice and support for you and your teenager

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- Career options
- Jobs/Apprenticeships
- Going to university
- Sixth form or FE college
- Work Experience/ Volunteering

Tuesday 7 February
Maidstone Skills Centre, Titchfield Road, Maidstone, ME8 8FX

Wednesday 8 February
Canterbury ChristChurch, North Holmes Road, Canterbury, CT1 1QU

Thursday 9 February
The Dover Ark, Noah's Ark Road, Dover, CT17 0DD

Tuesday 21 February
Gravesend Old Town Hall, High Street, Gravesend, DA11 1AZ

Drop in between 6-9pm

For more information call 01622 683155 or email info@cxk.org

Kent County Council

connexions KENT

Get with Apprenticeships

Have you ever wondered if your business would benefit from taking on an apprentice but not sure how to go about it? Do you want to know what kind of training is available for your current workforce? Are you looking to 'grow your own' managers and revitalise your organisation with new skills and thinking?

To celebrate the 5th National Apprenticeship Week, KATO (Kent Association of Training Organisations) and National Apprenticeship Service are organising a special event for Kent and Medway employers.

You'll be able to find out all you need to know about Apprenticeships and how to go about taking on an apprentice. Thirty Training Providers and Colleges will be on hand to advise you about courses and qualifications.

Come along to hear about how easy it is to recruit an apprentice to your business, what incentives are available to support the employer and find out how to build your business.

An invitation to Get with Apprenticeships in Kent and Medway

On Thursday 9th February 2012 hosted at Mid Kent College, Medway Campus, Medway Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1FN from 11am to 2pm.

Programme

11.00am Market Place - meet the Training Providers.

12.15pm Welcome - MidKent College.

12.30pm Key note Address - Get with Apprenticeships - Vic Grimes, Director of Apprenticeships, London and South East.

12.45 - 2.00pm Market place.

A light buffet lunch will be provided.

Places are limited, so please email info@kato-training.com to book your place now.

We look forward to seeing you there.

KATO Train Learn Earn...

Apprenticeships National Apprenticeship Week 6 - 10 February 2012

www.apprenticeships.org.uk **www.kato-training.com**

National Apprentice Week

FEBRUARY 6-10

In association with Thanet College Training Solutions

Helping to develop our future workforce

THANET College has been confirmed as a partner to Cogent – the UK's industry skills body for chemicals, pharmaceuticals, nuclear, oil and gas, petroleum and polymer businesses – working on the development of a new Higher Apprenticeship in Science, a move that is set to provide opportunities for young people across the east of the county.

The course will allow students a greater chance to progress in education and academia.

Christine Sakhardande, Cogent's programme manager for the professional science technicians' programme, said: "Our vision is to build a critical mass of professional science technicians across all science-related sectors.

"The new Higher Apprenticeship in Science will provide an opportunity for school- and college-leavers to develop on-the-job skills and follow a progression route that can lead on to graduate status.

"The new vocational programme will also offer existing technicians an accelerated accreditation scheme leading through to the new Science Council's scheme, which offers registration as a Registered Science Technician at Level 3 leading to Registered Scientist at Level 5.

"We are delighted to be working with Thanet College to help to develop the highly-skilled science workforce that will support economic growth in Kent."

The Leadership & Management Higher Apprenticeship has been developed to support those working as managers, senior managers, heads of department, directors and those working in a range of other senior management positions.

The Management Apprenticeship programmes have seen a steady increase in learners since their initial development and the apprenticeship is in the top 20 frameworks.

The apprenticeship programme has been designed to provide flexible and portable qualifications which meet the current and future needs of employers of all sizes and across all sectors.

The framework includes Management Level 5 NVQ and Diploma in Management Level 5 technical certificate, an Employment Rights and Responsibilities workbook and Key/Functional Skills at Level 3 where required.

There are interactive workshops at the Training Solutions Manston Business Centre, with the NVQ assessed in the workplace.

Both qualifications can be completed with Thanet College for the small price of £500 as an introductory price.

Higher Apprenticeship in Business Administration Level 4 is also coming soon to the college.

Some 4.5 million people help to keep businesses running in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors.

This includes registered directors, company and chartered secretaries, general administrators and specialist administrators who, in addition to general administration skills, also need sector-specific knowledge to fulfil job roles such as legal or medical secretaries.

This new Level 4 Higher Apprenticeship will be launched in the summer, with enrolments commencing in September.

Thanet College is about to start work with City and Guilds on the design and delivery models of this new Higher Apprenticeship Level 5 Diploma in Leadership and Management in Health and Social Care and Children's and Young People's Services.

Level 5 qualifications are mandatory for managers in health and social care and childcare; the Higher Apprenticeship would provide the necessary assessment and accreditation of the range of skills and knowledge to prove competency in this area.

Training Solutions answers the call for restaurant's new chefs

BUSINESSWOMAN Lisa Ford recently opened her new restaurant, The Oxford, in Whitstable's high street.

She turned to Training Solutions for support and together they helped recruit two young apprentice chefs.

Because the apprentices had been receiving Jobseekers' Allowance or Employment Seekers Allowance, Lisa qualified for assistance from the European Social Fund to create these new jobs.

To qualify for this special programme, employers have to meet specific eligibility criteria.

For more information about how you can benefit from additional funding support through this scheme, you can contact Johanna at Training Solutions on 01843 821580 or email training.solutions@thanet.ac.uk.

National Apprentice Week

FEBRUARY 6-10

In association with Thanet College TRAINING SOLUTIONS

Learn the benefits of taking on an apprentice at college events

KENT employers interested in taking on an apprentice have an opportunity to learn more about the business benefits of apprenticeships during the fifth National Apprenticeship Week.

Sheppey College is hosting a breakfast event for Swale employers on Thursday, February 9. Organised by Job Centre Plus, in partnership with Canterbury College, the event takes place from 8am to 10am.

It will include an opportunity for networking and a chance for employers to learn more about apprenticeships, the frameworks available locally and the benefits that can be gained by recruiting a young person.

All employers in Kent and Medway are invited to attend the 'Get with Apprenticeships' employer event at Mid Kent College's Medway Campus in Gillingham on the same day from 11am to 2pm.

Hosted by Mid Kent College and facilitated by KATO (Kent Association of Training Organisations), the event will be introduced by keynote speaker Vic Grimes, director of the National Apprenticeship Service, London and South East, who will talk about the exciting incentives available for employers.

Kent training providers will also be on hand to discuss and advise on training requirements.

Statistics show that more than 80 per cent of those employers who employ apprentices agree they make their workplace more productive.

An apprentice can bring fresh ideas to a business, reduce training costs, avoid future skills gaps and give employers the opportunity to 'grow their own' managers.

Apprenticeships are not limited to new employees, so existing members of staff may also be eligible for apprenticeship programmes.

Government funding is available to meet training costs and flexible training opportunities are structured to meet business needs.

To reserve a place at the Sheppey event, email paul.norris1@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk, or for the 'Get with Apprenticeships' employer event email info@kato-training.com.

For more information about apprenticeships, phone Kent Apprenticeships on 0800 098 8825, email info@kentapprenticeships.com, or visit www.kentapprenticeships.com.

Kent Apprenticeships is joint partners with KATO (www.kato-training.com), Kent County Council and National Apprenticeship Service (www.apprenticeships.org.uk).

You're safe in the knowledge that GSL is guarding you

THE Gurkha Services Links Ltd makes it its business to provide professional, highly-trained ex-British Army guards, protecting premises and people throughout London and Kent.

Every one of its staff is individually selected and trained to meet the specific business needs of clients. The team recognises that its personnel are responsible not only for security of any site but they also have an important role to play as representative of your company when meeting and dealing with visitors.

All members of this crack team are trained to standards well above the industry norm, initially attending the four-day induction course carried out in-house, followed by on-site traning to ensure they are fully equipped for their role.

GSL can also provide mobile patrols to locations that are recognised to be at risk but do not warrant a permanent guarding presence.

As part of the service, each officer is issued with keys for the customer's premises and carries out an agreed number of inspections on each site at random intervals.

The patrol also performs a variety of additional duties for the benefit of the client, including liaising with cleaning companies, maintenance staff or other contractors to allow and supervise site access for essential out-of-hours workers.

All patrol vehicle are fitted with tracking devices that allow real-time monitoring and reporting 24 hours per day. In addition, site visits are verified by hand-held data recorders.

GSL offers a range of services, including security, general cleaning and a variety of other office actions for both large and small businesses and domestic residential clients, staying strictly to its beliefs of integrity, reliability and dedication.

The group also offers GSL Alarm Response and Key Holding services, managing alarm response and key-holding requirements from lock-and-unlock service to alarm activation, relieving employees from having to make unneccesary journeys at unsociable times... not to mention the possible risk of having to deal with an intruder on the premises.

There is a strong commitment to delivering service excellence, a philosophy that runs through the organisation. from the chairman through to each trained security officer.

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Training, courses and careers

Brewer helps jobless learn vital new skills

BREWER Shepherd Neame has teamed up with Jobcentre Plus to give jobseekers aged 18-24 the skills and experience to equip them for the world of work.

The company has already helped three young people to develop a range of skills, including driving a forklift truck, at its distribution centre on the outskirts of Faversham.

Now warehouse manager Tony Berllaque is set to interview a fresh batch of candidates at Sittingbourne Jobcentre for the chance to take part in another eight-week work experience scheme during the spring.

Mr Berllaque said: "This initiative gives young people a true experience of work. If they are successful, they leave with a reference, a pallet truck licence and a forklift licence."

Under the scheme, candidates continue to receive their regular benefits, while working for a maximum of 30 hours a week for a maximum of eight weeks.

Mr Berllaque said: "They are asked to attend with steel toe-capped boots and a high visibility jacket and work six hours a day, Monday to Friday.

"We give them a basic company induction and health and safety training and they start with 'housekeeping' – straightening pallets and tidying up generally, before moving on to 'picking' – preparing cases of beer for dispatch.

"They move on to using a pallet truck and if they show aptitude with this and suitable commitment, they take the three-day forklift truck course.

"We've had three guys aged 22, 19 and 18 who have seen it through and left us with good references and mechanical handling equipment licences."

Jobcentre Plus operations manager Kevin Payne said Kent currently has 10,875 young people aged 18-24 out of work, including 1,220 in the Swale district.

"We really appreciate this interest from local employers," he said. "Shepherd Neame is a reputable company, with a well organised manufacturing and distribution operation and thorough in-house training.

"It is a big step from school to the world of work and some of these 18 to 24-year olds haven't worked before. Shepherd Neame has given them an opportunity to experience a professional environment, to work alongside role models and to boost self-confidence.

"This kind of work experience can make young people feel a lot more positive about selling themselves to a future employer."

Jobcentre Plus is organising an Employer Breakfast Event to discuss apprenticeships, work experience and work trials.

The free event is on Thursday, February 9, at Sheppey College, Bridge Road, Sheerness, from 8-10am.

For details, call Jobcentre Plus employee adviser Paul Norris on 01795 562679 or email paul.norris1@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817136.

BOTTOMS UP: Young people can learn how to drive a forklift at Shepherd Neame

College open day for apprentices

CANTERBURY College is running a series of activities to celebrate National Apprenticeship Week, ending with an open day from midday-6pm on Friday, February 10.

At the open day there will be a stall where people can get practical advice and guidance about joining one of the college's apprenticeship training programmes, which include mechanical engineering, health and social care, childcare, accounting and dental nursing.

Advice will also be available from course tutors.

Some courses have rolling start dates, meaning people can apply for them at the open day, and the college will be holding taster sessions of all its apprenticeship courses throughout Apprenticeship Week.

Through apprenticeships, young people gain on-the-job training alongside studying for qualifications.

Depending on the type of role, apprenticeships usually last between one and two years, give young people a firm footing within a company, and some can also lead to a degree level qualification at university.

The college plans to launch more apprenticeships this year, including new higher level apprenticeships.

There will be stands and displays showcasing A-level, BTEC and Higher Education courses available at the college.

Water firm takes on new trainees

A DOZEN young people have taken their first steps in a new career, thanks to Southern Water which has launched a new water supply and distribution apprenticeship to train inspectors and water supply process operators who will join its operations team.

The apprentices, from Kent, Sussex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, are studying for an NVQ in water engineering which will be enhanced by placements with the company's leakage, distribution and supply teams.

As well as the 12 new apprentices, Southern Water is also putting 12 members of staff who joined the company within the last year through the NVQ training.

They will all study part-time at one of three Southern Water offices around the South East region and put into practice what they have learned while at their sites.

Southern Water's Don Winzer, who has helped organise the training, knows first-hand the benefits of an apprenticeship as he began his career as a trainee 30 years ago.

He said: "We have made sure that we brought in people with a strong work ethic who want to succeed and build a career for themselves."

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The young engineers of the future taking on the Faraday Challenge

BUDDING young engineers have been taking up the task of researching, designing and building solutions to real engineering problems.

Last week, King Ethelbert School in Birchington hosted a Faraday Challenge Day. Teams from Hartsdown Technology College in Margate, Ursuline College in Westgate-on-Sea, Marlowe Academy in Ramsgate and Dane Court Grammar School in Broadstairs attended.

The event was part of the Institution of Engineering and Technology's (IET) Faraday education programme which includes 55 challenge days across the UK.

The Faraday Challenge Days aim to encourage more young people to study and consider exciting and rewarding careers in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) by encouraging creativity, innovation and problem-solving skills.

Each event involves six school teams each made up of six 12-13 year old students studying science, design technology, and maths.

Dee Halil, IET education manager, said: "Students taking part in the Faraday Challenge Days experience hands-on design and practical work giving them a peek into the life of a real engineer, the variety of engineering and the central role it plays in our everyday lives. We are confident this will challenge perceptions of engineers and the jobs they do."

University students showing off new tunnel visions

FINALISTS: University for the Creative Arts course leader Jane Armstrong with students Chinidma Ufomadu, Ioanna Theiakou, Hayley Hedges, Jonathan Rees and Eurotunnel's Deborah Elliott

FOUR students from University for the Creative Arts (UCA) at Rochester have won prizes for a live project they undertook with Eurotunnel Le Shuttle.

Third-year BA (Hons) design, branding and marketing students were asked to develop a marketing strategy for the company's Frequent Traveller product as part of their final project.

Students behind the four best concepts were invited to pitch their ideas to senior staff at Eurotunnel's Folkestone headquarters.

Deborah Elliott, Eurotunnel senior product manager, said: "The concepts proved both memorable and campaignable.

"They were researched thoroughly and with excellent consideration given to integrating a range of initiatives in support of their main idea."

First prize of a premium trip to the Continent was awarded to Hayley Hedges for her "compelling, highly polished concepts that she presented with flair".

Ioanna Theiakou won second prize, with Chinidma Ufomadu and Jonathan Rees winning runners-up prizes of a day/overnight trip.

Course leader Jane Armstrong, said: "The live project is an integral part of our final year programme in which students undertake briefs set by industry.

"This was a demanding project, asking students to research and understand the dynamics of integrated communications and deliver highly creative yet realistic outcomes.

"I am delighted that they have demonstrated their commercial acumen, and feel confident that this project will help launch their careers after graduating this summer."

Schools encouraged to tune into benefits pupils gain from singing

KENT Music and Sing Up are joining forces to launch a pilot learning scheme in spring to improve singing in schools.

They will investigate how primary schools use singing as a learning tool and identify any teacher training requirements to make improvements.

Other aims include cross-school training, networking, shadowing opportunities, and partnering schools to share strengths and expertise.

Initially, schools in Canterbury, Tonbridge and surrounding areas will be taking part, and if successful, the scheme will be rolled out to other parts Kent and the UK.

Sing Up will be teaching some of the schools a repertoire of songs to be performed at the Canterbury Primary School Recorder Festival on March 27.

Kent Music development manager Laura Callaghan said: "It is well documented that singing is good for children and can help improve numeracy, motor skills, language development, health, and boost confidence. Sadly, singing has disappeared from many primary school classrooms. The Sing Up scheme aims to support schools and teachers to use singing as a valuable and fun learning tool for pupils."

For details about registering a school with the scheme contact Laura Callaghan on 01622 358437 or email lcallaghan@kent-music.com.

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The Duke of York's Royal Military School
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A truly extraordinary school

I have the enormous privilege of being the Headmaster of The Duke of York's Royal Military School, the only non-selective, fully boarding state school in the country.

The school has adopted a military ethos in its approach to education for over 200 years as we recognise that children in all walks of life thrive in schools where traditional values such as self-discipline, self-reliance, spirituality, leadership and respect for others are present. What makes our community fun, vibrant and successful is a fusion of these military values with the other elements present in all good schools.

Young people who are kept busy and given the opportunities to develop and prove their self-worth really do excel. This year 93% of our pupils achieved 5 passes at GCSE or equivalent (A*-C) including English and Maths. The average figure in Kent is just over 50% in way of comparison. Every pupil passed 5 subjects with 42% of these passes being at A/A*grade. The vast majority of our 2011 leavers (95%) went to their first University of choice. More recently a pupil has been offered a place to read Mathematics at Cambridge University.

A good school is about more than just what is learnt in the classroom; sport and outdoor pursuits continue to play a leading role in the lives of all of our pupils and over 65 students received Duke of Edinburgh Awards this year. Our acclaimed military band continues to perform at events, and members of our talented senior choir recently appeared on local and national TV.

This year we have continued to work in partnership with a range of different schools locally, nationally and internationally. Our school and those in the Astor Federation of Schools have continued to forge close ties. Most notably was the involvement of pupils in a critically acclaimed production of "Cabaret" both in Dover and Virginia, USA which was put on by a joint American, Russian and British cast.

We are currently busy planning how to best spend a government grant of £24.9m to enhance the lives of present and future pupils in the school. These are exciting times indeed for the school which charges just £9,750 per year for our boarding (education is paid for by the state).

I personally welcome all visitors and encourage you to visit us.

Phone **01304 245 023** or visit **www.doyrms.com**

Charles Johnson MA (Oxon) NPQH, PGCE

St EDMUND'S School Canterbury

Mrs Louise Moelwyn-Hughes
St Edmund's School Canterbury

St Edmund's is a distinctive and historic boarding and day co-educational school where a family atmosphere is fostered, individuals are valued, the spiritual element is explored, and pupils enjoy a rich academic and cultural experience. We are committed to producing happy and successful students who can access a high quality education, while enjoying a wealth of stimulating and exciting extra-curricular activity. Set within a beautiful and extensive green field site affording spectacular views of the city and Cathedral of Canterbury, St Edmund's not only enjoys a stunning location, but also offers a happy, vibrant and creative environment within a supportive community.

The school offers a nurturing, safe and challenging environment where an emphasis is placed upon academic rigour and extra-curricular involvement. Our extra-curricular provision is broad and yet allows for expertise in each individual area. Our tradition of housing and educating the choristers of Canterbury Cathedral brings much to the richness and diversity of our community.

Academic standards are set high. Our dedicated and talented teaching and support staff work alongside students to encourage them to develop into caring, resourceful and confident young men and women who are well equipped to tackle the demands of the modern world.

As the Head of St Edmund's, I relish the opportunity to further enhance the already strong academic profile of the school, and to encourage all pupils to find their strengths in the many and various extra-curricular pursuits on offer, whether that be in the performing and visual arts, in music, in sport, or beyond.

We welcome pupils from all over Kent - our transport service helps day pupils travel to and from school and, for those pupils who live further away, we are proud of our thriving boarding communities in both the Junior and Senior schools which offer a 'home from home' family environment for boys and girls ages 7 - 18.

St Edmund's produces remarkable young people who enjoy the challenge of discovering and making the most of their talents. If you are looking for a nursery place as the first stage of your son or daughter's schooling or are thinking about the next step in their educational career, I hope that you will consider St Edmund's and visit us soon.

Forthcoming Open Mornings:
Nursery, Pre-Prep
and Junior Schools (ages 3 - 13)
Tuesday 6 March 2012

Senior School (ages 13+)
Saturday 12 May 2012

www.stedmunds.org.uk

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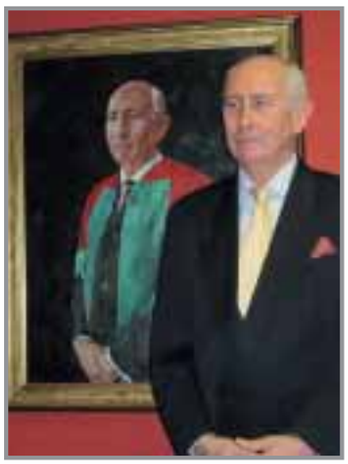

UK's Longest serving head to retire

After 26 years at the helm of King's Rochester, Head Master, Dr Ian Walker will be retiring in July

Under his leadership, King's became co-educational in 1992 and this greatly changed the nature of the school. Ian Walker comments: "Maturation of King's came about with the advent of girls and I am really pleased about that and glad that I did it."

Dr Walker also founded King's Pre-Preparatory School allowing pupils to join King's from the age of three and continuing their education, unbroken, all the way up to 18.

The Pre-Prep and Nursery are now housed in Chadlington House, built with the assistance of a generous donation from King's old boy, Lord Chadlington of Dean.

Over the years, Dr Walker has initiated many building projects and improvements to the school's facilities and in particular the boarding houses have benefited - King's has a flexible approach to boarding (parents can opt in and out) and the rooms are especially popular for day-pupils to move in for concentrated study during public exams. Other additions include the 'Bob Doubles' café which is open to pupils and staff as well as parents, providing them with the perfect meeting place before the weekly Cathedral services to which they are always invited. Also, Dr Walker campaigned to raise an impressive £350,000 for a 25m indoor heated pool; this is used extensively for swimming lessons, galas and also kayaking training.

Foreign language provision is a key part of King's education with pupils as young as three learning German as part of their everyday lessons. All languages taught may be studied up to A Level and it was thanks to Dr Walker that the school was awarded two substantial grants from the Wolfson Foundation to build language laboratories enabling the teaching of a broad range of languages including German, French, Russian and Latin.

However, whilst Dr Walker has made many improvements to the facilities at the school during his headship, he says: "Buildings are just the shell of a school. The people in it are its soul. King's pupils are invariably lovely, good company; thoroughly decent people - culturally, ethically, spiritually and morally - and this is the real joy of the job for me.

"King's always was, and continues to be, a wonderful school. I will miss the pupils and the enjoyment of the company of my colleagues, but I leave it in good shape and I can't imagine handing it over to a better man . . ."

King's Rochester

Mr Jeremy Walker will take up the post of Principal at King's Rochester in September 2012 and he will be at the school's Open Morning on Saturday March 3 from 9.30am - 12noon

Tel: 01634 888590 www.kings-rochester.co.uk

King's Rochester

Top results again from King's Rochester pupils

The publication of the latest government league tables last week gave cause for celebration at King's Rochester.

King's A Level pupils who collected their results last summer achieved an average point score per examination entry of 238.5 outstripping all local grammar schools and the national average of 216.2 The students who achieved these wonderful grades last summer are now studying top universities across the UK including five at Oxford and Cambridge and others at outstanding Russell Group establishments such as Durham, Bristol, Liverpool, Imperial College, London and Leeds.

GCSE candidates did the school proud too. Their achievements put them above all the Kent broad-ability, independent schools with 92% of pupils gaining "5 good GCSEs" or more.

Head Master, Dr Ian Walker who retires this summer after 26 years of distinguished service to the school, said: "I am delighted that King's pupils have achieved another crop of outstanding results at GCSE and A Level - and especially in my last year as Head Master! I am, however, not surprised that King's has ranked so highly in the latest league tables. Such results are the culmination of solid hard work by our broad-ability pupils and their teachers. They are the proof that we serve our youngsters and their futures far better by offering them traditional subjects taught by supportive, inspirational staff. Dumbing down a curriculum with a plethora of "Mickey Mouse" vocational subjects serves no-one and the top academic results achieved year on year by King's pupils prove that".

To hear more about the outstanding examination results at King's Rochester, visit the school's Open Morning on Saturday March 3 at 9.30am to 12 noon.

Tel: 01634 888590 www.kings-rochester.co.uk

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Closing date 17th February 2012

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The successful candidate will receive a competitive basic salary with a performance bonus linked to profits.

If you would like to apply for this position, please contact the Chairman of the Club, Mr. T Ingleton, by email for further details at:

westgateandbgc@btinternet.com

The closing date for applications is Tuesday 22 February.

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Cook Manager - £20k | Catering Assistants - Minimum Wage

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We are looking for experience, stability and the ability to produce amazing food.

For an immediate interview, please send full CV to
recruitment@churchillcatering.co.uk
CT7 0AX

Joinery Estimator

Orlestone Oak currently have a vacancy for a Joinery Estimator. Applicants should have a proven track record.

Duties to include estimating doors, windows and staircases, also oak framed buildings.

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Contact Mr. G Ledger **glenn@orlestoneoak.co.uk**

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GARDLINE ENVIRONMENTAL

Coastal Services Division

The Coastal Services Division of Gardline Environmental Ltd provides a variety of survey and windfarm services and specialist vessels for contracts and charters. These include Windfarm Turbine Transfers, Hydrographic Surveys and Guard Boat duties. Due to the award of some major long-term contracts across the UK, we are seeking persons suitable for the following positions:

Skippers

The ideal candidate must possess previous experience at sea on 10m to 22m vessels, using a variety of propulsion methods. As a minimum, Yachtmaster commercially endorsed, and an ENG-1 medical certificate are required. A VHF, First Aid and sea survival certificates would be an advantage as would experience of training support staff in boat operations. Experience with Information technology is essential. We have several experienced support staff as well as those beginning their careers at sea, so your ability to encourage and guide is important.

The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate their boat handling skills, leadership qualities and problem solving abilities Your calmness, confidence and initiative will be key to your success as one of our skippers within our team.

Able Seamen

In this role we are looking for individuals who have commercial and or leisure boat experience in an all-round support role. Your positive attitude and approach to the work and practical learning will be key to your success and progression. You must be someone who can accurately follow instructions and take responsibility for given tasks, working closely with and providing support to the Skipper regarding all aspects of vessel operations.

Working for Coastal Services, is physically demanding and will require nationwide travel and periods of time away at sea. We do operate on rotations appropriate to contract, usually 16 days on (including travel) and 14 days off, but for ALL the above roles you will need to be flexible and willing to work outside the core business hours on occasions. Ideally we are looking to recruit people from the localities of our contracts, but this is not essential.

If you are interested in working with us, please send your CV and Cover Letter via e-mail detailing your experience, skills and qualifications along with your availability to Rob Rae, Recruitment Coordinator at robert.rae@gardline.co.uk

Closing date: 10th February 2012

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ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

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Family Intervention Worker (FIP)

£21,519 – £25,472 per annum • Based Sittingbourne and Thanet • Ref 881

Both posts are on a fixed term contract from 1 March 2012 to 31 August 2012 and carry an Essential Car User Allowance of up to £1,239.

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You should have a flexible approach, substance misuse experience and an awareness of CAF and Safeguarding. With a professional qualification in a relevant discipline, you will be able to demonstrate a high level of experience working with families with complex needs.

For the senior post, you will have line management responsibility for a team of FIP workers and be required to contribute to the promotion and development of the FIP project, record and collate data.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk You can also email recruitment@kca.org.uk or call 01795 590795 and select option three. Please quote the relevant reference number in your application.

Closing date: 13 February 2012. Interview date: 24 February 2012.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824

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You will need over 3 months experience of undertaking, implementing and maintaining efficient administrative systems as well as the ability to work without direct supervision, prioritise work and deal with competing or conflicting demands in an organised and methodical manner

Closing date: 20th February 2012
Interviews: 5th and 7th March 2012

Please email sharon.green@victimsupport.org.uk for an application pack.

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Please email your CV to
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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Westlands Academies Trust

Westlands School & Westlands Primary School
Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

Interested in a career in teaching and joining our Graduate Teacher Training Programme?

Westlands Academies Trust has vacancies for graduates who wish to undertake school-based teacher training, whilst receiving financial support. Professional help is given to successful applicants to enable them to begin teaching classes at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

Applications are invited from graduates who are interested in teaching Science, Mathematics, English, Modern Foreign Languages, Music, PE or Design Technology at Secondary level.

There is also a vacancy in the primary sector to teach all subjects in the curriculum. Graduate Trainee applicants for Westlands Primary School must have already been interviewed and accepted by Christ Church Canterbury University.

Westlands Academies Trust has an excellent reputation for high quality training within a friendly and supportive environment. This is an excellent opportunity to acquire practical teaching experience under the guidance of highly skilled and dedicated professionals.

For preliminary enquiries, you are welcome to contact the Staff Development Leader at Westlands School. Application forms are available from the school or online. These should be returned with a CV and letter of application. CVs are not accepted without an application form.

Closing date: Monday 20 February 2012

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF
www.westlands.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr J Whitcombe MA

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE BYWAY OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC (BOAT) AE563 (SAXON SHORE WAY) IN THE PARISH OF RUCKINGE

BYWAY OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC (BOAT) AE563 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) AE563 between Ash Hill and Bilsington Road from the 17th February 2012

The BOAT will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before the end of May 2012.

The BOAT is to be closed because surface improvement works are taking place on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Ash Hill and Bilsington Road.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Andrew Hutchinson

VILLAGE GREENS - IN THE DISTRICT OF CANTERBURY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)

APPLICATION TO REGISTER LAND KNOWN AS THE DOWNS AT HERNE BAY AS A NEW TOWN GREEN

Notice is hereby given that the Public Inquiry into the above matter, which commenced on Monday 28th November 2011, has been adjourned and will resume on:

Monday 12th March 2012 at 10.00am

at Christ Church, William Street, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 5NR

A copy of the Inspector's directions setting out the procedure to be followed for the submission of evidence and the format that the Public Inquiry will take is available on the County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/villagegreens.

For further enquiries, please contact Miss Melanie McNeir on 01622 221628

VILLAGE GREENS - AREA OF CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF LAND AS A TOWN GREEN

Application has been made to the Registration Authority, Kent County Council, by a group of local residents (Mr. J. Barton, Mr. R. Norman, Mrs. P. Cherry, Mrs. S. Power and Mr. A. Pearlman) under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008. The application seeks the inclusion in the Register of Town and Village Greens of the land described in the Schedule below which is claimed to have qualified for registration as a Town or Village Green by virtue of the use of the land for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes 'as of right' and without challenge by the landowner for a period of over 20 years.

If the Registration Authority is satisfied that the land described below qualifies for registration as a Town or Village Green, it will so register the land.

The application, which includes a plan of the land proposed for registration, may be inspected at the offices of Kent County Council at the address below. Please contact the Commons Registration Team on 01622 221628 to make an appointment prior to visiting to ensure that a member of the team is available to assist you.

Any person wishing to make representations regarding the application should send a written statement of the facts upon which the representation is based to Miss. Melanie McNeir at Kent County Council, either by post at the address below or by email to commons.villagegreens@kent.gov.uk, **so as to arrive no later than Monday 19th March 2012**. Please quote reference VGA635. Representations must include the name and postal address of the person making them and the nature of their interest (if any) in the land affected by the application. They must also be signed by the person making them and state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that any representations that are to be taken into account by the Registration Authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain during the processing of the application. Copies of any objections or representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

Description of the land claimed to have qualified for registration as a Town Green

An area of land of approximately 43.5 acres (17.6 hectares) in size, known locally as Chaucer Field, situated at the University of Kent site at University Road in the town of Canterbury.

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR396 (PART) AT WESTERHAM) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

On 18th January 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered SR396 which commences at NGR TQ 4437 4933 (point A) and runs in an east-north-easterly direction for 683 metres to its connection with Pootings Road (B269) at NGR TQ 4485 4966 (point B), to a new length of public footpath numbered SR396 with a width of 2.0 metres, except where the new path is to be enclosed by hedges and/or fencing where it has a width of 2.5 metres, which commences at the aforementioned point A. The path runs along a headland in a northerly direction for 225 metres to NGR TQ 4435 4955 (point C), then turns to run along another headland in an east-north-easterly direction for 190 metres to NGR TQ 4452 4963 (point D). From here the path is bounded on either side by fencing and/or hedging and runs in an east-north-easterly direction for 74 metres to NGR TQ 4459 4965 (point E), after which it runs beside a hedge/fence on the northern side. The path continues to run in an east-north-easterly direction for 23 metres after which it crosses into the field to the north at NGR TQ 4461 4966 (point F). For the next 35 metres, to NGR TQ 4463 4968 (point G), the path is bounded on both sides, and then runs beside a hedge/fence for a further 46 metres to NGR TQ 4468 4970 (point H). The path then turns to run along a headland in a north-north-westerly direction for 93 metres to NGR TQ 4466 4979 (point I) and then turns again to run in an east-north-easterly direction for 117 metres to its connection with Pootings Road (B269) at NGR TQ 4476 4983 (point J). (Between points A-C-D-E-F-G-H-I-J on the Order plan).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the offices of Sevenoaks District Council, P O Box 183, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG or at the Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 18th January 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 5th February 2012, make an application to the High Court.

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH MT43 (PART) AT HILDENBOROUGH) DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

On 19th January 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order without modifications.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting that part of public footpath MT43 which commences at its connection with public footpaths MT41 & MU65 at NGR TQ 5783 4747 and runs in a south-south-westerly direction for 107 metres to its connection with public footpath MU23 at NGR TQ 5779 4737, and by adding a public footpath numbered MT419, with a width of 1.5 metres, which commences on public footpath MT41 at NGR TQ 5778 4750 and runs in a south-south-westerly direction for 120 metres to its connection with public footpath MT43 at NGR TQ 5773 4739.

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during office hours at the offices of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there.

This Order became operative as from 19th January 2012 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) OR 53(3)(c)(iii) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 5th February 2012 make application for the purpose to the High Court.

VILLAGE GREENS - BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 19(2)

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE REGISTER OF VILLAGE GREENS

The Commons Registration Authority, Kent County Council, is currently considering a proposal under section 19(2)(a) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008. The reason for the proposal is to correct an error made by the Commons Registration Authority in preparing the Registers of Common Land and Town or Village Greens.

The documents relating to the proposal (including a plan) may be inspected at the offices of Kent County Council at the address below. Please contact the Commons Registration Team on 01622 221511 to make an appointment prior to visiting to ensure that a member of the team is available to assist you.

Any person wishing to make representations regarding the application should send a written statement of the facts upon which the representation is based to the Commons Registration Team at Kent County Council, either by post at the address below or by email to commons.villagegreens@kent.gov.uk, **so as to arrive no later than 19th March 2012**. Please quote reference VG42.

Representations must include the name and postal address of the person making them and the nature of their interest (if any) in the land affected by the application. They must also be signed by the person making them and state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that any representations that are to be taken into account by the Registration Authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain during the processing of the application. Copies of any objections or representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

Description and effect of the proposal

The proposal is to add to the Register an area of land of approximately 85 square metres to Unit Number VG42 which forms part of Addington Village Green at Addington.

The proposal is also to delete from the Register an area of approximately 75 square metres of registered land from Unit Number VG42 which forms part of Addington Village Green at Addington.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 5th February 2012**

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Kent County Council

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Hawkenbury Inn, Hawkenbury Road, Hawkenbury**
Applicant: **Mrs Lesley-Ann Sparkes**

Name of Premises: **Little Cheveney Farmhouse, Sheephurst Lane, Marden**
Applicant: **Ms Sarah Marshall**

Plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration,
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

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Highways - Borough of Ashford

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

VARIOUS ROADS BOROUGH OF ASHFORD, SPEED LIMITS CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effects of which would be to:-

Extend the existing 30mph speed limit in Goldwell Lane, from the junction with Roman Road, in a north easterly direction, for a total of 320m, to a point up to and including the Eco Study Centre.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of road concerned may be inspected during normal office hours in the offices of the Ashford Borough Council, Kent Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford TN23 1AS and Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

If you wish to support or object to the new proposal you should write to Tara O'Shea, Kent County Council Highways, Unit 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk stating your reasons, by not later than 27 February 2012.

CHURCH HILL, CHILHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Hill, Chilham, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinty of the junction with The Square.

The alternative route is via The Street, Bagham Road and A252 Maidstone Road.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Church Hill will be suspended to allow traffic to enter and exit Church Hill from the junction with the A252.

MANOR POUND LANE, BRABOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Manor Pound Lane, Brabourne, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 10 weeks.

The road will be closed in 2 phases, as detailed below.

PHASE 1 - between the junctions with Canterbury Road and Lees Road, from 20 February 2012 for up to 3 weeks.

The alternative route is via Canterbury Road, Plain Road, Bridge Road and Lees Road.

PHASE 2 - between the junctions with Lees Road and Green Lane, from 12 March 2012 for up to 3 weeks then from 16 April for up to 2 weeks.

The alternative route is via Weekes Lane, Pilgrims Way, Stock Lane and Canterbury Road.

The break in these works allows the road to be re-opened during Easter.

NEW RENTS, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace a drainage channel and reset block paving, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on New Rents, Ashford, on or after 13 February 2012 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in short sections for its entire length.

The planned closure times are between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm.

There is no alternative route whilst the road is closed.

The dates of the phases are approximate guidelines, and may vary according to weather and ground conditions. The exact dates will be notified to local residents and signposted on site.

TILE LODGE ROAD, CHARING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage improvement works to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Tile Lodge Road, Charing, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Tile Lodge Bungalow and Warren Houses.

The alternative routes are via Charing Heath Road, A20 Maidstone Road, Station Road, Charing Heath Road and Egerton Road or via Charing Heath Road, A20 Ashford Road, Malthouse Hill, Lenham Forestall Road and Church Hill.

The planned closure times are between between 8.00 am and 4.00 pm each day with the road re-opened outside these hours.

Access will be maintained whenever it is safe to do so, but there may be times when this is not possible, due to the use of machinery.

Highways - Borough of Canterbury

FAULKNERS LANE, HARBLEDOWN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of bridge refurbishment works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Faulkners Lane, Harbledown, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the bridge over the A2 Dover Road.

The alternative route is via Pilgrims Lane, Bigbury Road, Howfield Lane, A28 Ashford Road, Thanington Road, Wincheap, A2050 Rheims Way, Harbledown By-pass, Chartham Hatch Road, Church Hill and Faulkners Lane.

WICKHAM ROAD, WICKHAMBREAUX (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to the riverside embankment to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wickham Road, Wickhambreaux, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Drill Lane and Mill Close.

The alternative route is via Wickham Lane, The Street, Wingham Road, A257 Canterbury Road, High Street, Preston Hill, Preston Road, Preston Lane, The Street, and Grove Road.

The planned closure times are between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm each weekday with the road re-opened outside these hours.

Highways - District of Dover

BLENHEIM ROAD, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of essential sewer repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Blenheim Road, Deal, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Queen Street and Wellington Road.

The alternative route is via Queen Street, Broad Street, Beach Street, South Street and Wellington Road.

The One Way order in respect of Wellington Road will be suspended to allow access from Victoria Road to Blenheim Road.

CATTLE MARKET, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cattle Market, Sandwich, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Moat Sole to the junction with Cattle Market (by the HSBC Bank).

The alternative route is via Moat Sole, Woodnesborough Road, St Bart's Road, and New Street (plus Harnet Street, Strand Street, High Street, The Chain and Galliard Street in reverse).

LOWER ROAD, RIVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER FEBRUARY 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lower Road, River, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Pavilion Meadow and Minnis Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Alkham Road and Minnis Lane.

The alternative route for *light vehicles* is via Alkham Road, London Road, Crabble Road, Lewisham Road and Minnis Lane.

All vehicles over 11' 6" high should use Lower Road, High Street, and London Road (Temple Ewell) in addition to the above route, to avoid the low bridge in Alkham Road.

MILL ROAD, STAPLE, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill Road, Staple, Dover, on or after 26 February 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with School Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with School Lane and Buckland Lane.

The alternative route is via School Lane, Lower Road, Barnsole Road, Mill Lane and Mill Road.

RICHBOROUGH ROAD, ASH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Richborough Road, Ash, from 6 February to 15 February 2012 inclusive, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from in the vicinity of the property called Trevone to the junction with Cop Street Road.

The alternative route is via Cop Street Road, A257 Ash By-pass, Sandwich Road, The Causeway, Ash Road and Richborough Road.

Highways - Borough of Gravesham

ARTHUR STREET (WEST), GRAVESEND- (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council Has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic in Arthur Street West, Gravesend with the junction of Darnley Street.

The Order will become effective on 6th February 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 days, the road closure will be restricted to 9:30hrs to 15:00hrs wherever possible. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Arthur Street (West), Darnley Road, Lennox Road East and The Avenue

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate laying of duct in the Carriageway.

HALL ROAD, NORTHFLEET (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Hall Road, Northfleet at the junction with Old Perry Street and Coldharbour Road.

The Order will become effective on, 20th February 2012 will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; Hall Road at the above Junction will be closed on the 20th and 21st February 2012 and again on 19th March 2012. The closure will be overnight from 20:00hrs until 06:00hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route during the above restriction will be via: Painter Ash Lane, Dene Holm Road and Coldharbour Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway Resurfacing.

ROUND STREET, COBHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Round Street, Cobham from the junction's of Sole Street to Jeskyns Road.

The Order will become effective on, 20th January 2012 will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; and last 3 weeks from the hours of 08:00am - 17:00pm. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Church Road, Henhurst Road, Jeskyns Road and Sole Street.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching works.

VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVSHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 6th February 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in Schedule 1. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via schedule 1:

Schedule 1

Road name: Dean Road, Luddesdown
Date: 6th February 2012 for 2 weeks - during the hours of 08:00am - 17:00pm
Extent: From Dean Lane to Oakendean Road.
Diversion: Dean Lane, Chandlers Hill, Brimstone Hill and Oakendean Road

Road name: Hermitage Road, Higham
Date: 6th February 2012 for 3 weeks during the hours of 08:00am - 17:00pm
Extent: From Forge Laneto Lower Rochester Road
Diversion: Lower Rochester Road and School Lane

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway Resurfacing works.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESHAM) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND

STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 9) ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under Sections 1, 2, 4 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act of 1984:

The effect of the Order is to introduce No waiting at any time (double yellow line) restrictions on the following roads or lengths of roads in Gravesend:

Cross Lane East	Central Avenue	Devonshire Road
Clifton Marine Parade (Bhaltic Wharf Section)	Clifton Marine Parade (Thames Way to The Shore)	Thames Way
East Mill	West Street	Stuart Road

Full details are contained in the draft Orders which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders, may be examined between 8.30am and 5pm on Mondays to Fridays at Gravesham Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Windmill St, Gravesend, DA12 1AU and at Sessions House, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ.

Any person wishing to support or object to the making of the Order should do so in writing by 12pm on 29th February 2012 to Andy Corcoran KCC Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

Highways - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(BRISHING LANE, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Brishing Lane from Joy Wood to Heath Road on or after Saturday 25th February 2012 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via B2163 Heath Road, Plough Wents Road, A274 Sutton Road, Wallis Avenue.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to carry out construction of a new footway. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Andy Padgham on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VICARAGE LANE, EAST FARLEIGH)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Vicarage Lane outside numbers 10 and 12 on or after Saturday 11th February 2012 for a period of up to 9 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Wilsons Lane, Gallants Lane, B2010 Lower Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to build a rick wall and install pedestrian railings. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Lisa Gillham on 08458 247 800.

Highway - District of Shepway

EAST STREET, FOLKESTONE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new water connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on East Street, Folkestone, on or after 6 February 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from adjacent to 25 The Stade to 1 East Street.

Access remains via The Stade and and east junction of East Street.

PILGRIMS WAY, MONKS HORTON
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a water supply to a new development, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pilgrims Way, Monks Horton, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Hempton Lodge Farm.

There will be no access for through traffic between Monks Horton Cottages and the junction with Horton Downs.

The alternative route is via B2068 Stone Street (Hempton Hill), Stone Street and Horton Downs.

Highway - District of Sevenoaks

VARIOUS ROADS, SEVENOAKS
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, Sevenoaks as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 20th February 2012. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to last as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Road Name: Cranleigh Drive, Swanley
Extent: South of junction with Charnock
Dates: 20th February 2012 for 3 weeks
Dversion: Cranleigh Drive and Court Crescent
Road Name: Morleys Road, Sevenoaks Weald
Extent: Entire length
Dates: 5th March 2012 for 2 weeks
Diversion: River Hill, Gracious Lane, Hubbards Hill, Glebe Road and Morleys Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate drainage works on behalf of Kent County Council Highways.

ROWDOW LANE, OTFORD
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Rowdow Lane, Otford from

Birchin Cross Road and Pilgrims Way.

The Order will become effective on 19th February 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 23rd February 2012 and will last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Rowdow Lane, Fackenden Lane, Shoreham Road, Pilgrims Way East.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate replacement powerlines.

SANDY LANE SEVENOAKS
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has Made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Sandy Lane at the Junction of Quakers Hall Lane.

The Order will become effective on 05/02/2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 06 February 2012 and will last 4 week.s These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Hartsland Road, Quakers Hall Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate gas mains replacement.

Highways - District of Swale

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of phone duct laying across the road, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A250 High Street, Marine Town, Sheerness, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 2 nights, between 7.00 pm and 6.00 am.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with A250 Cross Street (Bridge Road).

The alternative route is via High Street, Broadway, A250 Trinity Road, Millennium Way and Cross Street (Bridge Road).

BRIDGE ROAD, SHEERNESS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriagway resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bridge Road, Sheerness, on or after 12 February 2012 for up to 1 night or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the bridge over The Moat, with no access for through traffic between the 2 roundabouts.

The alternative route is via A249 Brielle Way, A250 Queenborough Road, Halfway Road, High Street, Millennium Way and Bridge Road.

It is planned that these works will be carried out from 7.00 pm until 7.00 am.

PLOUGH ROAD, EASTCHURCH
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Plough Road, Eastchurch, on or after 6 February 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with B2008 Chequers Road and Warden Road, with no access for through traffic.

The alternative route is via High Street, Lower Road, B2008 Eastchurch Road, Plough Road, Marrowbone Hill and Plough Road.

The planned closure times are between 8.00 am and 5.00 pm each day with the road re-opened outside these hours.

RUINS BARN ROAD, TUNSTALL
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of cabling to provide new phone service, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ruins Barn Road, Tunstall, on or after 22 February 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Oakwood House and Oakwood Farm.

The alternative route is via Broad Oak Road, Bottom Pond Road and Bexon Lane.

Highways - District of Thanet

BOOTH PLACE, MARGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new electricity supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Booth Place, Margate, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the rear of 24 Dane Hill Row.

Access will be maintained from either direction up to the point of closure.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(CONNAUGHT GARDENS, THANET)
(WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES)
(AMENDMENT NO. 38) ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL acting as the local authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 44, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce waiting restrictions and street parking places on the following road or lengths of road;

Schedule

(Waiting Restrictions and Street Parking Places)

Connaught Gardens, Margate	On the northern side for its entire length including the turning head, between points 15 metres east of the junction with Ramsgate Road and 6 metres west of the common boundary of 21 and 23 Connaught Gardens.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the offices of Thanet District Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ during normal opening times.

COTTINGTON ROAD, MINSTER
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a structural and safety inspection of the railway bridge, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cottington Road, Minster, on or after 6 February 2012 as shown below.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The planned closure times are from Monday 6 February 2012 at 10.00 pm until Tuesday 7 February at 6.00 am.

The alternative route is via Foads Lane, Cliffs End Road, A256 Sandwich Road, Lord of the Manor Interchange, A299 Canterbury Road West, Cliffsend Roundabout, A299 Hengist Way, Sevenscore Roundabout and Cottington Link.

QUEEN STREET & CECIL SQUARE, MARGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of essential urgent carriageway repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Queen Street & Cecil Square, Margate, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 4 nights, between 7.00 pm and 1.00 am.

The roads will be closed in phases between the junctions with High Street and Cecil Street / Hawley Street.

The alternative routes are

Via Hawley Street, Trinity Hill, Trinity Square, Northdown Road, Zion Place, Fort Crescent, Fort Hill, The Parade, Marine Drive and Marine Gardens.

Or via Cecil Street, Hawley Square, Churchfield Place, Churchfields, (plus High Street, A255 Ramsgate Road, and Queens Avenue for westbound traffic), Eaton Road, Belgrave Road and Marine Gardens.

High Street will be closed at the junction with Marine Gardens / Queen Street. There will be no through access from The Parade, and through traffic should follow the first diversion listed above. There will be no access to the pedestrianised section of High Street.

THANET ROAD, BROADSTAIRS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new water connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Thanet Road, Broadstairs, on or after 6 February 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 24.

There will be no access for through traffic between Prospect Place and Albion Street.

The alternative route is via Albion Street, High Street, Prospect Place and Thanet Road.

Highways - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(LONG MILL LANE, PLATT/PLAXTOL)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Long Mill Lane between The Hurst and Basted Lane on or after Monday 20th February 2012 for a period of up to 2 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via The Street, Church Hill, Plaxtol Lane, A227 Tonbridge Road/Bates Hill/The Street/Borough Green Road, A25 Borough Green Road/Sevenoaks Road/Maidstone Road, Crouch Lane

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for drainage improvements. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Alastair Coleman on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(MEREWORTH ROAD & FORGE LANE, WEST PECKHAM)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Mereworth Road from Church Road for 400m on or after Monday 20th February 2012 for a period of up to 12 days or until such works are completed and on Forge Lane from Stan Lane to Church Road on or after Monday 27th February 2012 for a period of up to 15 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for Mereworth Road is via Roughway Lane, Dunks Green Road, Hamptons Road, Carpenters Lane, Common Road, A26 Maidstone Road,

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

B2016 Seven Mile Lane and for Forge Lane via Roughway Lane, Dunks Green Road, Hamptons Road, Carpenters Lane, Common Road, A26 Maidstone Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane, Mereworth Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a new drainage system, kerbing and gullies. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Alastair Coleman on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(WATERINGBURY ROAD, EAST MALLING)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Wateringbury Road outside number 122 on or after Saturday 11th February 2012 when required for a period of up to 9 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Chapel Street, High Street, New Road,A20 London Road,A228 Ashton Way, A228 King Hill,A228 Malling Road, A26 Tonbridge Road and Red Hill and vice versa.

UK power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused but it is necessary for work to be carried out to install services to a new property.. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Kevin Mcdermott of Murphy Limited on 07773803611.

Highways - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(RANTERS LANE, GOUDHURST)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Ranters Lane from Gate House Cottage to Mulberry Farm House on or after Thursday 23rd February 2012 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Ranters Lane, Church Road, A21 London Road, Lady Oak Lane, B2079 Bedgebury Road/Balcombes Hill, A262 West Road/Clayhill/Station Road.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to remove an old telegraph pole. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Louise Skull of A Plant Lux Traffic Controls on 03700 500792.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 5th February 2012**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2012

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council has made the above Order, under sections 32, 35 and 124 and Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (Act of 1984), as amended, and Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and of all other enabling powers, the effect of which will be to consolidate its existing Off-Street Parking Orders.

The Order was made on the **7th February, 2012** and comes into force on the **13th February, 2012.** This consolidation **makes no alterations to Car Park charges or restrictions** and is a legal procedure to update and combine in one document the existing Orders relating to Car Parks.

A copy of the Consolidation Order, and the Order amending that Order, may be inspected during normal working hours at the offices of Tonbridge & Malling Council Offices, Kings Hill, West Malling or Tonbridge Castle, and at the Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent.

The Consolidation Order may also be viewed on www.tmbc.gov.uk/parkingorders.

If any person wishes to question the validity of the Order, or of any of its provisions, on the grounds that it or they are not within the powers conferred by the Act of 1984, or that any requirement of the Act, or of any instrument made under the Act, has not been complied with, that person may, **within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order** is made, apply for the purpose to the High Court and should, at the same time, notify this Council that such application has been made by emailing: parkingplans@tmbc.gov.uk or by writing to:

Director of Planning,
Transportation and Leisure,
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council,
Gibson Building,
Gibson Drive, Kings Hill,
West Malling,
Kent, ME19 4LZ,

If you have any questions concerning this notice, require further information or have difficulty in reading this notice, please contact, during normal office hours, the Parking Manager **tel:** (01732) 876260, **email:** parking.office@tmbc.gov.uk; **fax:** (01732) 876105; **minicom:** (01732) 874958; **SMS text message:** 07781 482959 or by **post:** Parking Manager, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Tonbridge Castle, Castle Street, Tonbridge, TN91BG.

Steve Humphrey
Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure Services
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Dated **10th February, 2012**

Premises License

Notice is hereby given that Rasa Apostol of 215 Goodwood Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex. RM12 6DD has applied to Gravesham Borough Council for the GRANT of Premises license for the supply of alcohol. 9am – 8pm Mon-Sat, 9am – 6pm Sun. April – October 9am – 9pm Mon-Sat, 9am – 6pm Sun for the premises Lituanica (Food 4 U UK Ltd) situated at 4-6 Darnley Road, Gravesend, Kent. DA11 ORU.
A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/licensing or at Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU tel. 01474 337334 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.
Any person wishing to submit representations to my application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 23/02/2012.
The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

PUBLIC NOTICE

90 Laburnum Avenue, Sandwich, CT13 0AU

We are in receipt of an offer of £131,000 subject to contract for this property.

Anyone wishing to place a higher offer must do so before legal exchange of contracts.

Regal Estates Sandwich
01304 611227

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

WasteTech Recycling Ltd of 117 Dartford Road, Dartford, Kent, DA1 3EN is applying for a licence to use Unit 6, Detling Aerodrome, Detling, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 3HU as an operating centre for 8 goods vehicles and 0 trailers.
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at South Eastern and Metropolitan traffic area, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds. LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044

PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/11/2152/N - LAND AT 15, 17, 36, BROCKENHURST AVENUE, AND 25, 27, MARION CRESCENT, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Outline application for the Demolition of 25 and 27 Marion Crescent and erection of 11 dwellings with access road onto Marion Crescent and associated development. **Reason: 6**

MA/11/2159/N - BATTEL HALL, BURBERRY LANE, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1RH - Listed building consent for the removal of conservatory. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0013/N - LAND AT EAST LENHAM FARM, EAST LENHAM ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2DP - Construction of 5MW photovoltaic park including attendant infrastructure and associated works. **Reason: 1, 6, 9**

MA/12/0025/N - THE TOWER HOUSE, UPPER STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1RU - Erection of single storey extension to north elevation and alterations to existing outbuilding ('The Old Stables'). **Reason: 1, 2, 6**

MA/12/0026/N - THE TOWER HOUSE, UPPER STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1RU - An application for listed building consent for the erection of single storey extension to north elevation and alterations to existing outbuilding ('The Old Stables'). **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0039/N - MU MU NIGHTCLUB WINE BAR & RESTAURANT, 108, WEEK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1RH - Application to vary condition 2 (No activity in connection with the use hereby permitted shall be carried on outside the hours of 9.00 am - 11.30 pm each day) of MA/01/1424 (Change of use of ground floor of building from shop to Champagne bar) to read as follows: 'No activity in connection with the use hereby permitted, other than the cleaning of the premises and administrative activities, shall be carried out between the hours of 0400 and 1000 on any day'. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0046/N - THE GRANARY, SMITHS FARM, HOLLINGBOURNE HILL, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1QJ - Extension to existing stable block. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0049/S - NORTH VIEW OAST, FORGE LANE, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0HJ - Retrospective application for change of use of land to garden area, creation of hard-standing for parking, creation of pedestrian access to Forge Lane, and erection of fencing and gate. **Reason: 1, 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **19th February 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. Dated: **5th February 2012**

PLANNING

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//11/01859/FUL: Oak Lodge, Braggs Lane, Herne, CT6 7NP Erection of detached bungalow and creation of basement and detached garage and store. **Applicant: Mr Ward** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02148/FUL: 8 High Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5LH Change of use from retail (Use Class A1) to restaurant (Use Class A3). **Applicant: Mr Zhivko** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02162/FUL: Gladstone Villa, 14 Gladstone Road, Whitstable, CT5 1JG Replacement single-storey extension to side/rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Ms F Houghton** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00022/FUL: Downland Cycles Ltd, Malthouse Road, Canterbury, CT2 7JA Demolition of existing buildings and the erection of a terrace of five dwellings with associated parking. **Applicant: Barretts of Canterbury Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00030/CAC: Land adjacent to 26 Beach Walk, Whitstable, CT5 2BP Demolition of existing garage/workshop. **Applicant: Mr J Bloice** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//12/00032/FUL: Telephone Ate, Cherville Lane, Bramling, Ickham, CT3 1LZ Addition of ventilation louvers to windows to flank elevation of building. **Applicant: British Telecom** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00040/FUL: 34-36 Sea Street, Herne Bay, CT6 8SP Change of use of existing showroom to retail use, installation of new shopfront and parking for 12 vehicles. **Applicant: Tesco Stores Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00045/LB: 2 Mount Cottages, Hatch Lane, Chartham, CT4 7LS Insertion of new window to south elevation **Applicant: Mr Tim Fisher** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00048/FUL: Land adjacent to 26 Beach Walk, Whitstable, CT5 2BP Demolition of existing garage/workshop and erection of detached dwelling with integral garage. **Applicant: Mr J Bloice** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00049/FUL: Former Oil Depot, Union Road, Bridge, CT4 5LW Erection of four detached dwellings. **Applicant: Ammasa Properties Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00115/LB: The Barn House, Rayham Road, Whitstable, CT5 3DZ Construction of single-storey side extension and decking. **Applicant: Mr Croft** Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.control@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 27 February 2012**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 3 February 2012

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

BWS Limited of Little Chest, Ashford Road, Lenham, Kent, ME17 2DL is applying to change an existing licence as follows, to keep an extra 4 goods vehicles and 4 trailers at the operating centre at Little Chest, Ashford Road, Lenham, Kent, ME17 2DL and to add an operating centre to keep 4 goods vehicles and 4 trailers at Magna Intier Automotive Interiors, Spade Lane Cold Store, Hartlip, Kent, ME9 7TT. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centres who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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PLANNING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/CA/0015/2012 - Proposed development at Canterbury Wastewater Treatment Works, Sturry Road, Canterbury, Kent, ME5 7QA

Southern Water Services Limited is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for temporary approval sought to increase number of industrial liquid waste tankers (conditions 4 and 5 on planning permission ref:CA/92/478).

You may view this application at Canterbury City Council, Canterbury Main Office, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW.

KCC/DA/0485/2011 - Proposed development at Lees Yard, Rochester Way, Dartford, Kent, DA1 3QU

Easy Load Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for revised application for change of use of part of yard from open storage to waste separation using a trommel with a covered waste sorting facility, and the provision of netting on top of the existing rear wall.

You may view this application at Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR.

KCC/SH/0543/2011 - Proposed development at Highview School, Moat Farm Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 5DJ

KCC Property & Infrastructure Support is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the provision of new modular two classroom building, additional car parking, fencing, fire access road and relocation of existing polytunnel (this is an alternative to the single modular classroom permitted under SH/11/738). The proposed development may affect a public right of way.

You may view this application at Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY.

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/SW/0009/2012 - Proposed development at Tunstall C of E Primary School, Tunstall Road, Tunstall, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8DX

Tunstall C of E Primary School is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for retrospective application for the removal of low level fencing and replacement with wooden palisade fencing. The proposed development is within the Tunstall Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance, and also affects the setting of a listed building.

You may view this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT.

KCC/SW/0010/2012 - Proposed development at Davington Primary School, Priory Row, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7EQ

Davington Primary School is applying to the Kent County Council Planning Applications Group for planning permission to increase the playground in one area of the school site. The increase would change an unusable soil area into tarmac. The proposed development is within the Faversham Conservation Area and could affect its character and/or appearance.

You may view this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT or at the Faversham Office, Alexander Centre, Preston Street, Faversham.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough/District Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 5 February 2012

Kent County Council

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/00092/HOUSE Pastures Iden Green Road, Benenden
- Single storey rear and side extensions, conservatory to rear, extension of pitched roof over existing garage, detached garage and store and extension to driveway and turning area (LB) (CA)

12/00157/HOUSE Fern Cottage High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Loft conversion including two dormers to front, one dormer and one rooflight to rear; two storey and dormer extension to rear at first floor, including windows (CA) (LB)

12/00031/FUL Tunbridge Wells Conservative Association 84 London Road, Culverden
- Creation of roof terrace to rear and railings and re-paving to front elevation (CA) (LB)

12/00063/LBC Ismail Coffee & Tea Ltd 95 - 97 Mount Pleasant Road, Culverden
- Listed Building Consent: Replacement 50mm diameter foul drain to discharge externally over external gully. Extract ventilation grille set into existing window (both to York Road elevation) (LB)

12/00160/LBC 88 Grosvenor Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Listed Building Consent - Replacement of existing doorset with new automatic doorset to provide inclusive access (LB)

12/00152/FUL Marlborough House School High Street, Hawkhurst
- Single storey extension to the pre prep school to provide assembly hall, additional classroom and new offices for head and P.A. and additional storage areas (LB)

11/02107/FUL Lamberhurst Vineyard Furnace Lane, Lamberhurst
- Single storey extension (LB) (CA)

12/00004/HOUSE Twitten Cottage The Down, Lamberhurst
- Two-storey pitched roof extension to replace dormers and cat slide roof; Addition of a cat slide roof over existing flat roof (CA)

12/00070/FUL The Swan At The Vineyard The Down, Lamberhurst
- Conversion of coach house to form 4 staff bedrooms and a wine shop (CA) (LB)

12/00073/LBC The Swan At The Vineyard The Down, Lamberhurst
- Listed Building Consent: Conversion of coach house to form 4 staff bedrooms and a wine shop (LB)

12/00025/HOUSE Frant House 36A Frant Road, Pantiles & St Marks
- Externally insulate the house with cream painted render and convert garage to living accommodation with garage door replaced with a window (CA)

12/00132/HOUSE 14 Grove Hill Gardens Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Replacement single storey rear extension (CA)

11/03877/HOUSE 8 Prospect Park Southborough, Southborough Town Council
- Two storey north side extension with window to first floor on side elevation. Single storey rear extension (CA)

12/00168/HOUSE 3 Pennington Road Southborough, Southborough Town Council
- Demolition of single storey rear extension and conservatory and re-construction with additional infill section. Rear extension to left hand wing. Garage extension (LB) (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 04 February 2012

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Swale Borough Council

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 20TH FEBRUARY 2012

SW/11/0917: Change of use of land to use as a residential caravan site for 2 gypsy families with a total of 3 caravans and erection of amenity block - Land north of Plantation Lodge Farm, School Lane, IWADE; ***REASON 4***

SW/11/1612: Installation of replacement door and windows to front of property - 7 Caslocke Street, FAVERSHAM; ***REASON 1***

SW/12/0049: 25 additional patient car parking spaces, with new access road and footpath. 1 existing parking space lost adjacent to new footpath, provision of lighting to car park, access road and footpath - Sheppey Community Hospital, Plover Road, MINSTER; ***REASON 3***

SW/12/0050 &
SW/12/0051: Conversion of stable to holiday accommodation - The Stables, Bells Forstal Farm, THROWLEY; ***REASON 2***

SW/12/0077: Revocation of the quarrying use and erection of a single dwelling house with detached garage block and associated landscaping enlarged lake and use of existing access - Winterbourne Wood Quarry, Scoggers Hill, DUNKIRK; ***REASON 6***

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

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For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

AGBAJE
It is with joy and thanks giving to the almighty God that we announce the arrival of our gorgeous daughter - Heritage Iseoluwanimi Adaeze Chimluru Newsong Agbaje. She was born at the Darent Valley Hospital Kent on 8th December 2011 to Mr Labi and Mrs Chi Agbaje.

ETHERIDGE
Amy and Jack of Maidstone celebrate the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Lyla Jane Etheridge on the 11th December 2011, weighing 8lb 13oz .

HOLDEN
Kris and Caroline are delighted to announce the arrival of Olivia Freya on 06/01/2012 weighing 5lbs 15oz. A baby sister for Samuel.

IDEN
Cheryl and Lee are pleased to announce the birth of Kayla Iden, born 31 December 2011 weighing 8lb 5oz.

LANCEVICIUS
Rolandas and Renata welcome Lukas to this world.Born on 3rd January 2012

LIGGINS
Angela and Edward Liggins celebrated the birth of their daughter Annalise on 3rd January 2012

MARTIN
Garrie and Helena Martin of Dover are delighted to announce the arrival of Ellie-Mai Mary on 23rd January 2012. A baby sister for Zoe, Laura, Sophie, Ryan and Joshua

MILLS
Katlin-Mai Ann born on the 6th January 2012, weighing 7lb 3oz. Daughter to Alex and Michelle of Folkestone.

MULCARE
Emma and Curtis would like to announce the birth of baby Milan, born on the 6th January 2012 at the QEQM in Margate. Wishing you a healthy, happy life. Love Mum and Dad. XXX

POWELL
Freya born on 04/01/2012, weighing 6lb 9oz. Daughter to Richard and Leigh Powell.

THORNEYCROFT
Dylan Xander born on 08/01/2012, weighing 9lbs. Son to Laura Marchant and Scott Thorneycroft.

TRANDABURU
Jennie and Ionut Trandaburu celebrate the birth of their son Leo Jason Trandaburu weighing 8lbs 1oz on 3rd January 2012.

DEATHS

CLARKE
It is with great sadness that Brian (Mick) Clarke has passed away on the 10th January 2012. The family would like to thank friends and family for their help and support during this sad time.

SCOTT
"Margaret (nee Quirk). widow of George, died peacefully on 11th January 2012 at Cornford House, aged 90 beloved sister of Hester. Private burial followed by Service of Thanksgiving at 2 pm on Tuesday 31st January at St Peters Church, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells. Family flowers only. Donations to OMF."

TURNBULL
We are sorry to announce the death of Ray Turnbull. She passed away peacefully on the 9th January 2012. She will be sadly missed by albert and family. Funeral at Eltham Crematorium on 1st Febraury 2.00pm. No flowers. Enquiries to Co-operative Dartford 01322 220006.

VANT
Florrie Vant passed away on the 17th January 2012. Will be sadly missed by family and friends. Funeral service at St Georges Church Wrotham on the 8th February at 1pm. Friends and family welcome. No flowers, donations if desired to Kent Air Ambulance through Welham Jones Funeral Directors, Borough Green.

WHITEHEAD
In loving memory of John Charles Whitehead who sadly passed away on 3rd January 2012. A dear Brother,Uncle and Great Uncle.

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044

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Women Seeking

MARY 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, fun loving, likes nights in/out, seeks male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385239**

KEIRA 34yr old very attractive female, fed up of staying in alone, looking for likeminded male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384055**

NIAMH slim attractive female, well travelled and body confident, seeking mature male who can handle a real women. Or at least thinks he can. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384051**

KIM 37, slim blue eyed brunette, divorced with no ties, looking for a genuine convenient friendship/more. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384049**

SARA slim tall blonde bombshell, loves dancing, walking in the rain, WLTM genuine male loves life as much as I do. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384047**

IN for a Penny in for a Pound. Gorgeous curvy figured attractive brunette, bubbly, outgoing and fun, looking for confident romantic companion. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383907**

KERRY 32yr old single mum of one, ready to move on with a new relationship, WLTM genuine male for dates, text fun and more. Pls Call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383901**

JO 28yr old Auburn haired beauty looking for a bit of fun back in her life, seeks male to make me smile again. Age/looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383899**

46YR old single mum, caring, loving, GSOH, seeks male for lasting relationship. Must like children. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385101**

CHRISTIAN 60yr old dog owner, likes countryside, culture, seeks likeminded kind man for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384989**

LOVELY lonely lady, fit and active, many interests, seeks N/S fun loving guy with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384951**

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**

CARING affectionate female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, seeks male, 60-70 with GSOH for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384871**

MAISY seeks male who likes dogs, country walks, beach, meals out and knows there own mind for a relationship and to build memories, fun loving lady 47. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383733**

CAROL alone on a Saturday night with a bag of chips, what am I doing? Sick of being single and looking for a male who can handle a good women. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383119**

SHARON 5ft 7ins, slim blonde, attractive, funny, good job, nice home, sports car, well educated/travelled, newly single and looking for love. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383113**

ERIN attractive petite divorcee with own home, looking for nights in/out, friendship and maybe more with mature male. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383111**

ALEX attractive professional, separated, no ties, OHAC, seeks similar romantic male for love, companionship and more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383049**

SHARON 33, slim blonde, blue eyes outgoing, attractive, looking to put some much needed fun back into life, seeks male 30-45yrs. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383047**

LOOKING to start the New Year of with a bang? Faye open minded 20yr old female just looking for fun times. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383045**

FEMALE 58, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, cuddly, caring, likes animals, drink, good food, seeks likeminded male to share life with. Is that you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383669**

BLACK female, 35, GSOH, caring, loving, kind, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376611**

CLAIRE 38 blue eyes, blonde, looking for professional gent up to 50yrs LTR. Call me to meet up for a casual drink and chat. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380881**

FEMALE likes coast walks, shopping, gardening, countryside, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381463**

TIA 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for relationship and good friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081**

WENDY enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079**

MARIA 47, curly blonde hair, 5ft 6ins, size 14, GSOH, likes reading, walks, WLTM kind, friendly, fun loving gent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380509**

BERYL retired, looking for similar male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384635**

TRACY 39, fun blue eyed blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun, WLTM professional male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384045**

JO 21yr old single mum who loves nights out, seeks understanding male for fun and more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384043**

JULIE attractive blonde with strong family values seeking Mr Right. If you have a GSOH and are loving, pls reply. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384041**

SHARON 50, widowed, looking for nice gent to take out to theatre, cinema, country walks and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384497**

CARING genuine single mum, GSOH, 41, looking for genuine male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384349**

MARY fun loving brunette, seeking friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382689**

MARY likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847**

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTM male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497**

TRISHA teacher, blonde, attractive, uncomplicated, undemanding, non materialist well travelled, likes reading, walking, laughing, seeks tall, professional male, 60's for simple joys. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379891**

ANGELA Scottish female, dark hair, green eyes, attractive, new to the area, no ties, OHAC, seeks gentle male for good times and more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382227**

FEMALE 74, 5ft 1ins, artistic, versatile, seeks nice caring gent for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378465**

LADY late 50's, new to area, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378403**

SHIRLEY young looking tall attractive fit female, OHAC, open-minded, varied interests seeks tall male for genuine dates. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380005**

TANYA attractive, fit, slim, fun, all a hot blooded male wants! Now I have your attention, 37yr single female looking for the real deal. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381335**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, dvds, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

LOOKING for a nice soul mate, dinners, drinks, walks, someone who enjoys life, I am optimistic, happy, fun, cuddly, slim, red hair, enjoy good food, working out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379865**

SUE long blonde haired slim but curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853**

KAZ 32yr old intellectual mixed race female, likes gym, meals in/out, seeks reliable, honest male, 38-58yrs to get to know for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376591**

NATALIE blonde blue eyed nurse, 39yrs medium build, no ties, life is good but I'm missing someone to love and lust after. Can you help? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376589**

AUDREY recently widowed, seeks lonely gent for friendship and conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381213**

ALICE 30's female, slim, lovely smile, not that happy at the moment but hoping you might change that, you've nothing to loose? Call me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379201**

LISA blonde 31yrs, extremely fit and outgoing, seeking male for casual friendship with benefits. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380879**

TRISH tall slim brunette, honest, reliable, affectionate, OHAC, no ties, outgoing, loves Indian food, seeking male 39-50yrs for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380877**

CAROL attractive lady of leisure, solvent, OHAC, WLTM sincere gent willing to entertain and share all of life's indulgences with me. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380857**

EMMIE 28yr old lonely single mum all out of love, looking for good company with male who can tame a confident beautiful lady. Any looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381363**

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159**

CHERYL young 54, attractive, petite, brunette, slim, likes most things, easygoing, looking for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380141**

MARIE solvent, independent, likes meals out, good things in life, GSOH, love pets/children, seeks honest, affectionate male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388574**

KATH 41 slim size 10, attractive and hardworking, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks cuddly romantic guy for tlc and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381339**

BERYL 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503**

KATIE pretty slim blonde female, 35, N/S, likes pubs, countryside, meals out, seeking outgoing male for fun times, maybe relationship. Interested? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382205**

CLARE petite dark haired attractive female with lots of interests, seeking male for mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382203**

LISA attractive dental nurse 25, been hurt in the past, looking for romantic male, 35-50yrs for loving friendship, maybe more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382201**

SUSIE tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382163**

BLACK female, professional, African, 5ft 2ins, size 12, late 30's, hardworking, no ties, seeks man for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389090**

FEMALE 42, African, understanding, seeks romantic, understanding, outgoing male, 45-50 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383001**

SUSAN 53, 5ft 3ins, slim, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, looking for male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380317**

GWEN lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim female with GSOH, WLTM male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380443**

JACQUELINE 49, medium build, brown hair, likes animals, nights in/out, coastal walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381439**

JAYNE tall blonde, blue eyes, attractive, OHAC, no ties, enjoys nights out, romantic nights in, WLTM male up to 55yrs for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381365**

DEBORAH 38 missing that special someone in my life. Call me, even if you're not the one I guarantee we will still have loads of fun! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380439**

TALL slim, blonde, blue eyed voluptuous female, seeks older male, 70 plus for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382453**

SARAH 29yr old slim brunette with many interests seeks sincere male, 28-40yrs for fun times and more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382161**

STEFF 32, slim, hazel eyes, long hair, curvy size 10, likes cosying up, cuddles, tickles, sick of being lonely and bored, not looking for complications just love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382159**

ANN slim blonde female, lovely big blue eyes, great personality, outgoing, employed, OHAC, WLTM caring 40's male for adult fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382085**

DEBBIE dark haired passionate classy female looking for professional intelligent male wanting mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380441**

PAT 70's, 5ft, cuddly, seeks male for friendship and days out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369521**

JACKIE 48, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more, preferably a smoker. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368039**

STUNNING blonde nurse, 32, funny and romantic, WLTM uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-65yrs for companionship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369221**

AMANDA cuddly 36yr old easygoing caring lonely female just looking for love with nice guy, 30-55yrs. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375133**

REBECCA brown hair/eyes, medium build, shy, likes animals, N/S, likes cosy nights in, walks, gardening, cuddles, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375995**

JACQUELINE 48, medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks male, 40-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370747**

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217**

ELIZABETH independent, no ties, solvent, fit and healthy, looking for similar passionate male, any age/looks for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375161**

SASHA 28yr old beautiful surfer babe looking for fun initially, maybe more with fit confident male who can handle me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375131**

LIFE begins at 40! Pam outgoing athletic brunette, tall, slender and attractive, WLTM older male with big personality for lots of fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374155**

ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359589**

CLAIRE Gorgeous fun loving brunette, 29, 5ft 4ins, employed, OHAC, looking for manly male up to 45yrs for good times and fine wine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373107**

FOLKESTONE lady 57, likes animals, walks, drinks, good food, passionate, seeks likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375927**

45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319**

RACHEL blonde brown eyed slim but feminine female, 32, likes wining/dining, theatre, WLTM reliable male for diner dates and romancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377531**

EARLY 40's male, handsome, strong, looking for fun times with likeminded female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389128**

MALE 44 likes meals out, cinema, seeks considerate, outgoing female of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389066**

STEVE designer, 5ft 10ins, good looking, seeking friendly lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382601**

IRVING 72, tactile, N/S, likes bowls, seeking attractive N/S female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382567**

42YR old male, 5ft 9ins, brown hair, blue eyes, likes pubs, cinema, seeks female, 25-45 for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384723**

DAVE 53, attractive, 6ft, warm, sincere, seeks slim, attractive female, 50's for friendship and weekends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389474**

MALE early 40's, shy, lacking confidence, seeks strong minded female to take the lead. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384563**

MALE 40's, seeks female, 35-40 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389412**

MARK great physique, handsome, 5ft 10ins, 45, smartly dressed, seeks discreet, passionate female for coffee mornings, fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389390**

MICHAEL 58, retired, 6ft, many interests, fit, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382519**

Men Seeking

GARY dark hair, 6ft 4ins, ex door man, roofer, 45, slim, well built, seeks female for discreet good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389604**

PAUL 50, 5ft 8ins, brown eyes, salt/pepper hair, own business, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385233**

PROFESSIONAL male, 42, OHAC, independent, likes good things in life, weeks warm, sincere fun loving female for loving relationship. Children/animals welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385167**

MALE 44, professional, good looking, friendly, nice smile, seeks female, any age/race for rewarding conversation and fulfilling times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385149**

47YR old male, dark hair, slim-medium build, loving, genuine, likes holidays, theatre, beach walks, cinema, seeks female 35-63 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385141**

ANTHONY 60, 5ft 10ins, green eyes, well built, likes a laugh, nights out, soul music, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389574**

MALE 44, kind, honest, caring, own home, hurt in past seeks female for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385035**

FRED seeks female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385023**

MALE seeks sweet female for romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384939**

PAUL 65, caring, likes socialising, pubs, meals out, coastal walks, football, darts, nights in, seeks female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384819**

IAN blond hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, GSOH, likes pubs, meals out, holidays, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384817**

SINCERE warm man, 66, 5ft 9ins, seeks affectionate lady for fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384371**

CANTERBURY male, 56, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, seeks slim black/white/Asian/Oriental female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379673**

DAVID 65, slim, 5ft 8ins, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384707**

YOUNG male, 55, seeks attractive black girlfriend, N/S, likes country pubs, seaside, music, semi professional musician. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383151**

CHRIS 33, likes marathon running, nights out, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382959**

EASYGOING cheerful, decent man, 64, 6ft, 13st, blue eyes, educated, romantic, seeks nice, slim, elegant female, 47-57. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382933**

Gay Seeking

JOHN 55, bi, 5ft 10ins, slim-medium build, seeks male, 55-75 for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385157**

DAVID 65, retired, N/S, grey hair, fit, likes CD, seeks assertive male, 50-75. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384897**

PAUL seeks older male for friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384833**

EASYGOING guy congenial, 63, likes outdoors, books, seeks slim, quiet guy, N/S for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377723**

MIDDLE aged guy, medium build, seeks male, 45-60 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377655**

RYAN medium build, brown hair, looking for male for fun, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381211**

JOHN 59, seeking fit, assertive male, 49-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377817**

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Hollyoaks Ben getting down to the bare facts

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For over 40s only

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	2, 9, 16, 23 March	3	yes	£99
Grand Hotel, Scarborough	5, 12 Mar; 16 April	4	yes	£119
	24 Feb; 9 March	3	yes	£99
Heathlands, Bournemouth	5 March	4	no	£119
	9 March	3	no	£109
Britannia, Bournemouth	24 Feb; 2 March	3	no	£99
Grand, Llandudno	27 Feb; 12 March	4	yes	£139
	2 March	3	yes	£119
Bosworth Hall, Leics	2, 9 March	2	yes	£109

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THE INTERVIEW

Marcus Patrick

Hollyoaks Ben bares all

Heartthrob actor Marcus Patrick tells **Joe Bill** about the reality of breaking into TV, panto and why he's wearing those tiny pink pants

AGED just 19, Marcus Patrick was on television five nights a week surrounded by good-looking women and envied by teenage boys across the country.

Starring as pin-up fireman Ben Davies in Hollyoaks, the actor burst on to the small screen, where he stayed as a main character of the soap for more than seven years.

After a short panto stint in his home town of Portsmouth, the 32-year-old has bagged a part in a new musical to tour the UK, Wildboyz.

He said: "If you wanted to compare it to something, it would be the Full Monty, but it has additional current affairs within it. The characters we play are celebrities and are not working class – it is very much The Full Monty but of this era and with a celebrity twist.

"People are in the market for that sort of thing at the moment with this reality obsession going on. The cast are pretty much playing sent-up versions of themselves, so I would be Marcus Patrick the actor in the show."

Patrick is not the only well-known face in Wildboyz, with reality veteran Alex Reid and Danny Young from Coronation Street all signing up to parade around in pants.

The show is based on the stars heading out for a stag-do in Bali before their plane is diverted to a cheap Spanish hotel in Ibiza. And when the international male-strip group doesn't turn up for a hen party, the spotlight turns to the celebs to save the day.

Patrick said: "In that way this will give the show some longevity because it can continue with all the characters being replaceable. You can always get another celebrity in there and the gags can surround their own lifestyle.

"A lot of people are asking me if I have joined some new strip show and I have to explain that it is actually a comedy and a play, that it is not just a Chippendales show... although posing in the pink underpants doesn't help."

Patrick is not adverse to a bit of reality television himself, having made his break on Hollyoaks at its peak through a Channel Four reality audition show.

STAR QUALITY: Marcus Patrick has just taken on a revealing new role

He said: "I had just been travelling and was pretty much wondering what I was going to do with my life. There was this open audition for Hollyoaks, so anyone could have gone for it, and I had only been to drama centres before that.

"Channel Four decided to televise it – this was even before Pop Idol and all that, so it was quite groundbreaking at the time. Obviously it was done differently as it didn't have all the Simon Cowell cash, so it was never a massive thing and it just ran on T4 in the early days."

Patrick was one of just four who got a part in the soap from the thousands who entered the competition. He soon became a fan favourite.

He said: "It was amazing for me. I cut my teeth in the industry thanks to that.

"I had always wanted to be an actor, but it was a dream. Then I got that chance, took it, fluked it and ran with it and ended up staying with the show for seven years."

Patrick went on to star in the late-night Hollyoaks spin-off shows with on-screen girlfriend Gemma Atkinson before finally saying goodbye to the world of soap.

He said: "Actors in Hollyoaks have quite a quick turnover, so I milked it really. I loved it, but at the same time you can't be in Hollyoaks all your life, as much as you would like to.

"It is now the life of a jobbing actor. I have just finished panto in Portsmouth and that was really full on. I have never done one before and people love to do them now – it is not as tarnished as it was 10 years ago, when actors avoided them.

"Work is work and it is a tough industry. I am taking parts in TV, voiceovers, theatre work, anything really... you can't be picky in this industry."

Fortunately, the show that made his name has not left Patrick typecast as his fireman alter-ego and he has taken roles in BBC One's Doctors and ITV's 71 Degrees North and Echo Beach.

Talking openly about his time there, he said: "When you're in a soap you don't have the opportunity to do other things because you are heavily contracted up. You can't do theatre, you're their property until the contract is over. It's a great way for young actors to earn and learn, but you need new challenges."

He is pretty certain that once Wildboyz has finished its tour, he will not pull the classic soap trick of raking up old ground.

He said: "I think that ship sailed, especially as Gemma shot me in my last scene. Going back into Hollyoaks wouldn't be a backwards step, but it wouldn't be the right move. It's never the same as the first time you were there."

■ Wildboyz plays at three Kent theatres in May:
■ Central Theatre, Chatham, on Thursday 3 (phone 01634 338338, website www.medwayticketslive.co.uk).
■ Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Friday 4 (phone 01892 530613, website www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk).
■ Winter Gardens, Margate, on Sunday 13 (phone 01843 296111, website www.margatewintergardens.co.uk).

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ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Extraordinary wealth of the king of meals

THE Sunday roast is surely the king of dinners. It is synonomous with the UK. We have all grown up with the idea of families getting together to enjoy the simple combination of meat, vegetables and gravy on a weekend.

Its greatness as a meal has even travelled well overseas as many tourist areas in southern France and Spain will strategically place the roast dinner on the menu to appease hungry Brits... and the locals!

But here in Kent we are taking the tradition of the Sunday roast to the next level.

We all know that it is easy to change a roast in accordance with the seasons. There are the hot, filling vegetables of winter such as Brussels sprouts, cabbage and parsnips, or the lighter summer offerings like new potatoes, peas and runner beans. But it is the choice of meats here in the Garden of England that has changed the face of the Sunday roast and opened it up to new experimentation.

Gone are the days when lamb, beef, pork or chicken were all that Kent had to offer. Be on the look-out for roast goose with chilli carrots, roast duck with plum sauce... or even roast woodpigeon!

And let's not forget Kent's other top attribute, the glorious coastline that offers up scores of sumptuous fish dishes. Along the beaches, our restaurants often promote their freshly-caught cod or plaice – or maybe shellfish are more your thing.

The choice of dishes that Kentish folk can proudly call 'locally sourced' provides an extra joy to our Sunday lunch. Here are six of the finest venues.

The Acorn Inn
Birchington

Why here...
The Acorn Inn is a friendly, family-run pub in the heart of the seaside village of Birchington-on-Sea, Thanet. Hosts Peter and Cath offer a warm welcome to a pub that has existed since 1748.

On the menu...
The Acorn's Sunday roast with all the trimmings is very popular. Choose from beef, lamb or turkey. Prices start at £7.95 for one course, £9.95 for two and £11.95 for three. Served midday to 4.30pm.

How to book...
The Acorn Inn, 6 Park Lane, Birchington
CT7 0AW
phone: 01843 841196

George Hotel
Ashford

Why here...
The George Hotel is an oak-beamed traditional coach house, reputed to be Ashford's oldest inn. The market town sits in the heart of rural Kent, with The George ideally placed in the centre.

On the menu...
Traditional Sunday roast, freshly made at The George, is available at only £7.95 for one course or £9.95 for two. Book through info@thegeorgehotel-ashford.co.uk.

How to book...
The George Hotel,
68 High Street, Ashford
TN24 8TB
phone: 01233 625512; email: thegeorgehotel-ashford.co.uk

London Beach
Tenterden

Why here...
The London Beach Country Hotel & Spa in Tenterden offers one of the best Sunday lunches in Kent. The three-course à la carte menu is only £21.95 and changes weekly. But the real speciality is that the team serves only Kentish produce.
The menu is packed with locally-sourced fresh meats, vegetables and cheeses that coincide with the changing seasons. With its picturesque views and warm atmosphere, it is very hard to top.

On the menu...
This top eatery offers a traditional and beautifully-presented menu for Sunday-roast diners.
The dishes available include fresh scallops from Rye Bay, which can be followed by wonderful Romney Marsh lamb and finished with a board of local cheeses.

How to book...
London Beach Country Hotel & Spa, Ashford Road, Tenterden TN30 6HX
01580 766279

First and Last
Herne Common

Why here...
A great service from friendly staff is the norm; this pub offers a fantastic choice of food, real ales and wines. The function room is a great party and event venue, but any visit is a special one.

On the menu...
Choose from English dishes including topside of beef, roast leg of pork or lamb, breast of chicken with all the trimmings, or, for vegetarians, home-made nut roast served with vegetables.

How to book...
The First & Last,
Herne Common, Herne Bay
CT6 7JU
phone: 01227 364465

Walpole Bay
Cliftonville

Why here...
The Wapole Bay Hotel and Living Museum with its unique art gallery of napery art as seen on TV are special attractions.
The museum is open from 10am-5pm, with the venue serving breakfast from 7am and serving snacks and scrumptious cream teas all day through to dinner.
There is an outdoor terrace with fantastic views, ideal for both winter and summer. It is complete with ballroom, snooker room and two bars.

On the menu...
There is a fantastic five-course Sunday roast for £19.95, with entertainment by Nick Capocci. There is one sitting, for which you will need to arrive at 12.30pm for a 1pm start .
Murder Mystery on February 25 is £35 per person for dinner and investigations at 7pm.

How to book...
Walpole Living Museum, Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville CT9 2JJ
phone: 01843 221703
web: www.walpolebayhotel.co.uk

The Red Lion
Herne Hill

Why here...
Located in the picturesque village of Hernehill, there is a warm, cosy atmosphere, with quality home-cooked food. Choose a drink from a varied selection of wines, beers and real ales.

On the menu...
A very popular Sunday lunch, offering one course for £10.50, two courses for £13.50 and three courses for £15.50. Choose from a selection of meats including pork, lamb, and beef with all the trimmings.

How to book...
The Red Lion, Crockham Lane, Herne Hill ME13 9JR
phone: 01227 751207
web: www.theredlion.org

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT **Six of the Best** CONTACT 01303 817150 OR EMAIL **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

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Floating venue could help to turn tide for the Medway experience

IT has always been a source of disappointment that Maidstone does not make the most of the River Medway.

There is an undeniably attractive footpath alongside it, incorporating Whatman Park on the outskirts, but when it comes to the centre of town itself you can't help feeling one of its main assets is significantly under-utilised.

The Barge might help change all that. Moored next to the Archbishop's Palace, the floating restaurant has added value to the riverbank since it sailed over from France two years ago (the photographic montage in the toilets of the move is worth checking out).

Sitting by the large glass window is highly recommended, particularly at night. The darkness allows you to imagine you are dining on one of Europe's grand rivers. It is possible to convince yourself the twinkling lights from the retail park in the distance are from an elegant opera house, while the hulking façade of the crown court is a towering gothic cathedral. Maybe.

The elegant restaurant's modern European menu offers diners two options: either a smattering of starters to eat tapas-style, or a more straightforward starter/main/dessert.

After opening with bread and olives, which at £9 for two was steep, we decided to shun the tapas and stick with convention.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Both our starters were exquisitely presented on plates made of slate and tasted as good as they looked.

The towers of Andalousie spiced pork with patatas bravas (£6) offered a delicious taste of Spain, while the chilli sauce was wonderfully subtle. The same could be said for the pan-fried strips of Kentish beef fillet (£8), which were artfully accompanied by sautéed potatoes, piquillo peppers and red wine jus.

Our expectations were suitably raised, but in my case not for long. For the main course I opted for the roast pheasant à la Française (£13). Other than being slightly dry, there was nothing wrong, but, surrounded by carrots and peas in a nondescript sauce, it was fairly unimaginative compared with the starter.

My dining companion was luckier. The calf's liver with bubble and squeak was stacked in such a way that the pancetta strips on the top bore a passing resemblance to a Big Mac, but it was reportedly delicious.

For dessert we shared an apple tarte tatin (£7). Here the standard returned to the level of the starters as it was encased in a delicate lattice dome of spun sugar. The honey-and-cinnamon ice-cream and redcurrant sauce were superb.

The return to form suggested the pheasant may have been a blip, but I would recommend trying something else from the menu.

With our Merlot (£9.90 for two glasses) drained, we finished off with coffee (£5 for two).

It brought the total to an expensive £71.40, but the location alone means it is worth a try – if you're looking to push the boat out.

David Pritchard

■ **The Barge, River Medway, Mill Street, Maidstone ME15 6YE**
Telephone: 0808 1661024
www.the-barge.sm4.biz

FARMERS' MARKETS

DARTFORD: The market began in November 2005 at the request of Dartford Borough Council and has been running since then. It is held in the pedestrian area of Dartford high street and is open to the public between 10am and 2pm on the third Friday of the month.

EGERTON: This farmers' market has now been trading every Friday from 2pm to 4.30pm for almost five years, with most of the original stall-holders still selling at the market in the Millennium Hall.

MERSHAM: Featuring produce from the immediate area is the market now held at the Farriers Arms, Mersham Forstal, between 2.30pm and 6.30pm on every second and fourth Friday of the month.

MEOPHAM: This farmers' market has been operating since July 2004 in the overflow car park of the Meopham fitness and tennis centre on the first Sunday of the month from 9am to 12.30pm.

HILDENBOROUGH: Every Tuesday in St John's Church Centre the Hildenborough farmers' market has an average of 20 stalls each week offering a wide range of fresh local produce of high quality at competitive prices.

IWADE: The village hall farmers' market opened in February 2009; it takes place on the first Sunday of the month from 10am to 1pm, offering seasonal local produce.

■ **For more information on farmers' markets around the county, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk**

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STAGE & ARTS

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Psychic Sally hits the road

First contact

Winter Gardens, Margate
Thursday, February 9, 7.30pm
01843 292795
www.margatewintergardens.co.uk

FRESH from her new TV series, Psychic Sally On The Road, Britain's most talked-about celebrity psychic Sally Morgan returns by overwhelming public demand. Morgan, who has been trending on Twitter due to her quarrels with some national newspapers, leaves the safety of satellite TV channel Sky Living to bring her abilities and mystical personality to Margate's Winter Gardens. Believers can see Morgan live and be treated to a unique theatrical experience.
With audience members hopeful of first-hand experience of Morgan's supernatural skills, her visit to the Winter Gardens should make for a thrilling show. Tickets are on sale from £22 from www.margatewintergardens.co.uk – you should book now!

Play premiere

Leslie Ash to lead the girls

Churchill Theatre, Bromley
Tue to Sat, February 7-11
www.atgtickets.com/bromley
08448 717620

THE Churchill Theatre is hosting the premiere for the star-studded new comedy drama All The Single Ladies. This new show, which features Men Behaving Badly star Leslie Ash alongside former EastEnders actress and knife-crime campaigner Brooke Kinsella, will play Bromley before heading around the UK and finally the West End.
Best known as next-door-neighbour Debs in the ever-popular MBB, Ash brings her comic timing to the stage for her first national tour in 17 years with a show that explores the love-lives of three modern women.
With lethario lodgers and internet dating on the cards, All The Single Ladies will make for a great night out.

Fresh comedy venture in city

Kev Orkian

The Parrot, Canterbury
Friday, February 17, 8pm
01227 454170
www.chatbackcomedy.com

NEW entertainment group Chatback Comedy has announced a special gig to pay homage to musical comedy routines.
The Canterbury team welcomes Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist Kev Orkian, who has played in front of millions of viewers and indeed royalty. He will be joined by Jay Foreman, who has been described as an "equal parts po-faced comedian and finger-licking folk-singer-songwriter" and predicted to go far by comedy hot-shots Chortle.
The third act is Carys Nia Williams, another comic who has a penchant for using music in her act. This should be a good show from a new company founded by former Canterbury students.

Kaiser Chiefs hit town

Pop-rock the Leas!

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Sunday, February 19
0844 8713015
www.atgtickets.com

TOP pop-rockers Kaiser Chiefs head for Folkestone in just two weeks' time.
The Leeds group, who are famous for songs like I Predict A Riot, Oh My God and Ruby, have announced their first UK tour in almost two years and play the Kent seaside town in its first few weeks.
The tour follows the band's re-emergence this year with their new album, The Future Is Medieval. There will be a host of UK festival appearances, including a euphoric return to Glastonbury, V Festival, two huge sold-out shows at Kirkstall Abbey in Leeds and shows on the European festival circuit.
Tickets are priced at £26.50.

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DICKENS WORLD EVENTS

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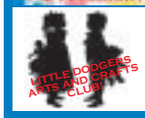

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Dress up in 'full' Victorian costume (head to toe) and receive half price entry in to Dickens World. This event cannot be pre-booked. Offer Available from Tues 7th Feb – Sun 12th Feb.

BRITANNIA THEATRE EVENTS

HOT CHOCOLATE
Friday 10th February 2012

THE VALENTINE LOVERS PARTY NIGHT - This valentines celebrate with the kings of love and legends from the world of disco. Performing live with their hits including 'Sexy Thing' and 'It Started with a Kiss' With special guests and your host DJ 'The Marvelous One'.

Venue – Britannia Theatre, Dickens World. Doors open – 7:00pm

Time for Tea
A new 'Good Old Days' live show

Afternoon cream tea, scones, lashings of laughs and songs of yesteryear to sing along to.

Show only is included in the Dickens World standard admission price.

*£5 extra for cream tea, scones & cucumber sandwiches

Next Show **Wednesday 22nd February 2012**

For more information visit www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421

DICKENS BICENTENARY YEAR 2012

The Dickens Bicentenary Birthday Show
Tues 7th Feb 2012 @ 7:30pm Tickets - £5.00 each

The Cricket & The Kettle – Wed 8th Feb 2012 @ 7:30pm - Tickets - £5.00 each

The Bicentenary Dinner – Thurs 9th Feb 2012 @ 7:00pm - Tickets £20.50 each

Mr Fezziwigs Ball – Sat 11th Feb 2012 @ 7:30pm - Tickets £15.00 each

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For times and films, please call the film line on 0871 22 44 007 or visit www.odeon.co.uk

For all Dickens World information and online bookings, go to www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421

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KENT ATTRACTIONS

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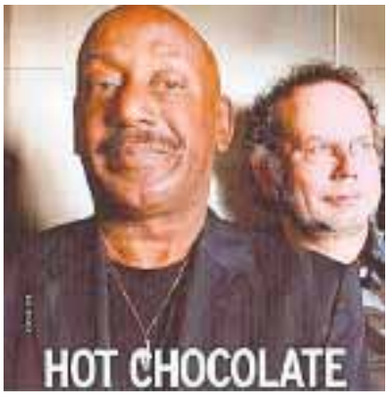

Everyone's a winner baby

Hot Chocolate

Dickens World, Chatham
Friday, February 10, 7pm
0870 241 1415
www.dickensworld.co.uk

TOP Seventies and Eighties soul group Hot Chocolate head to Chatham for a one-off gig... without a stripping northerner in sight.
The band are best known for a string of top-10 hits that included It Started With A Kiss, Every 1's A Winner, So You Win Again and You Sexy Thing, which featured so memorably in the film The Full Monty.
Suited and booted, the group will be performing live at The Britannia Theatre, Dickens World, on Friday, February 10.
The doors open at 7pm and advance tickets can be booked online at www.dickensworld.co.uk for just £25.
With the band constantly touring the UK and Europe, this really is a rare opportunity... and you can leave your hat on.

Ghostly times are upon us

Medium rare

Walpole Bay Hotel, Margate
Saturday, February 18,
01843 221703
www.walpolebayhotel.co.uk

IF you are fascinated by paranormal activities, ghostly apparitions or unexplained things that go bump in the night, then there is a top night in store for you.
A ghost hunt at the Walpole Bay Hotel, Margate, hosted by professional medium Steve Moyle should get the heart pumping.
The famous hotel, which has been featured on television's Hotel Inspector, provides a perfect setting for the special spooky evening of paranormal investigations.
The event will also help to raise money for The Children's Trust, which provides specialist care for some of the UK's most severely-disabled children.
Tickets cost £45 each and include a buffet.
They can be bought from www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk/ghosthunt.

A country celebration

Clays, dogs and game

Kent County Showground, Detling
Saturday and Sunday, March 24-25
01392 421500
www.contour.uk.net

IT is that time of year again for the Kent Game And Equine Festival to head over to the County Showground at Detling, near Maidstone.
As one of the first regional game fairs in the calendar, this long-established event is regularly attended by more than 8,000 visitors for a celebration of countryside life including fishing, shooting, traditional crafts and local food.
This year the outdoor Supreme Equine Arena will feature an Australian Horsemanship parade and a fast-paced Pony Club Horse & Hound showjumping challenge.
Events include a clay shoot, BASC gundog scurries, fly-casting demonstrations, archery, falconry and game cookery.

Will you be the super sleuth?

Murder mystery

The Alexander Centre, Faversham
Fri and Sat, February 24-25
01795 594460

FEBRUARY will feature two performances of a new murder-mystery play penned by Faversham writer Brian Booth.
The interactive show, Killer Heels, offers guests a view into one of Europe's leading (fictional) fashion houses, D' Koto.
Guests will be on the set of its latest catwalk show, which features head designer Karen Oliver's new collection.
But what is meant to be a night of glamour, pouting and posing ends in a horrific tragedy. Can you solve the mystery?
Killer Heels will be on show in The Alexander Centre on Friday and Saturday, February 24-25.
Tickets cost £17.50 and include a two-course supper.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Let's reclaim the day for love

THEY say romance is dead, that chivalry has been left behind in an era before Playstations and microwave meals... where have our Rhett Butler and Scarlett O'Hara moments gone?

Well, it is time to make a stand and to declare our feelings for our loved ones, for a single day at least.

Let's make this February 14 a day to remember, the day Kent took affairs of the heart back from Jeremy Kyle.

St Valentine is a tricky customer – the patron saint of love has turned a few quid in recent times peddling dodgy stuffed toys, boxes of naff chocolates and over-priced flowers.

His henchman, Corporate Cupid, does much of St Valentine's bidding, tricking couples into spending a fortune on novelty gifts Father Christmas couldn't shift two months earlier.

By all means, buy your loved one the bear cuddling the heart-shaped pillow, or the massage oils that will probably never be used, but just remember, Kent has plenty to offer, too.

Enjoy long walks across our beautiful marshlands, skip through our rolling downs, take in the salty air on our fresh beaches and work up an appetite fit for a loving, intimate meal together. Our fish restaurants are divine, our country pubs – complete with roaring fireplaces – exceptional.

Treat yourself to a stay at one of our top hotels and ignore the chance to argue about who makes the tea with a simple cry of "Room service!".

It is not about what you do, or what you buy, it is all about with whom you are sharing this special moment.

And there are plenty of opportunities in the Garden of England to create those moments.

Here's to the year where buying a potted plant and sherbet dip dab from your local garage doesn't pass for a celebration of love.

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Retire in confidence and style with assisted living

DECIDING to move from your family home to a purpose-built retirement apartment can be a daunting experience.

However, to try to make the move easier, it is now possible to test out an apartment with no obligation, thanks to McCarthy & Stone's Assisted Living development, Laurel Court in Cheriton.

Through the initiative, anyone considering purchasing an apartment at Laurel Court will be able to stay in the development's fully-furnished one-bedroom guest suite for up to two nights free of charge.

For two days, they can call Laurel Court 'home' and make use of all the facilities at the development, have lunch in the restaurant, enjoy the immaculate gardens and meet the estate manager along with other residents in the communal lounge. Visitors can also get a feel for the area.

Sharon Callcut, regional marketing manager for McCarthy & Stone, said: "Our assisted-living properties offer many unique benefits that can only be appreciated by experiencing the lifestyle first-hand."

McCarthy & Stone is selling a range of one- and two-bedroom Assisted Living apartments at the Stanley Road development, exclusively for those over the age of 70.

In addition to low-maintenance properties, Laurel Court benefits from communal facilities and support services for residents when they need them, either now or in the future... all in a safe and secure environment that offers peace of mind and independence in a property you continue to own.

On site, there is a waitress-service restaurant. While the apartment's own fitted kitchen is well equipped, residents can choose to dine with family and friends in the restaurant, which offers freshly-prepared hot lunches 365 days a year. And, for those who are unable to make it down to the restaurant due to illness, meals can even be brought to the apartment.

Domestic assistance is also available. One hour a week is provided automatically to residents as part of the service charge, but additional assistance can be purchased, on either a short- or a longer-term basis. Washing, ironing, shopping and other chores can all be done on the resident's behalf if required, leaving more time to enjoy their independence.

Each apartment is wheelchair-accessible throughout and comprises one or two bedrooms, an open-plan lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen and bathroom incorporating both a bath and separate-level access shower with non-slip flooring.

A communal lounge is available for residents to meet for a chat over a cup of tea while also providing a venue for the regular social events.

Furthermore, there is a hotel-style guest suite for hire for family and friends and a function room is available for private parties and gatherings.

And for those who require it, personal care is also available from the on-site care team.

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Major Four Day February Sale

Covering Kent, SE London, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Isle of Wight & West Country

Commencing 20th-23rd February

Strood, Rochester
High Yielding Investment
Guide: £175-180,000

Northfleet, Gravesend
Former Place of Worship
Guide: £70-80,000

Gillingham
Shop Investment with Flat
Guide: £100-120,000

Crayford
Flat for Over 55s
Guide: £90-95,000

Dartford
Cafe and Flat Investment
Guide: £130-135,000

Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells
House for Improvement
Guide: £85-90,000

Chatham
House for Refurbishment
Guide: £75-80,000

Gillingham
Semi for Improvement
Guide: £85-90,000

Gillingham
Cemetery Lodge for Improvement
Guide: £160-180,000

Rainham
Development Land - 3 Houses
Guide: £140-150,000

Swanscombe
House for Improvement
Guide: £95-100,000

Whitham Heath
Workshop for Redevelopment
Guide: £40-45,000

Tunbridge Wells
Residential Investment
Guide: £300,000 Plus

Gravesend
Town Centre Development
Guide: £125-130,000

Tunbridge Wells
Town Centre Investment
£170-175,000

Ditton, Maidstone
Bungalow for Improvement
Guide: £185-195,000

Abbey Wood
Land for Four Houses
Guide: £275-295,000

Allhallows, Rochester
Pair of Semis
Guide: £120-130,000 Each

Eltham, SE9
Semi for Improvement
Guide: £190-200,000

Gillingham
House for Refurbishment
Guide: £65-70,000

Allhallows, Rochester
Terrace of 3 Houses for Investment - To be offered individually
Guide: £100-110,000 Each

Gillingham
House for Improvement
Guide: £65-70,000

Sidcup
Development Site in Prominent Position
Guide: £650-700,000

Welling
Site for 10 Flats - Good Location
Guide: £330-375,000

Gravesend
Residential Investment
Guide: £330-340,000

Dartford
Land with Planning
Guide: £60-70,000

Maidstone
Residential Investment
Guide: £115-120,000

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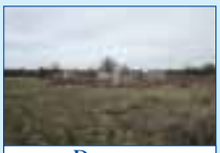
Commencing 20th-23rd February

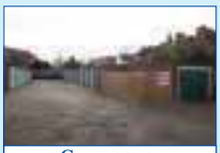
Canterbury
Freehold Block for Investment
Guide: £400-450,000

Swanscombe
Former St Johns Premises
Guide: £45-55,000

Adisham
Develop/Conversion Project
Guide: £180-200,000



Dunkirk
26 Acres inc.WWII Radar Station
Guide: £135-140,000



Canterbury
Six Garages - Individual Lots
Guide: £6-6,500 Each

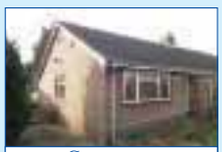
Ashford
2 Bed House for Improvement
Guide: £100-110,000

Dover
4 Bed House for Improvement
Guide: £70-75,000

Snowdown, Dover
Det Cottage with Potential
Guide: £130-150,000

Deal
Commercial with Potential
Guide: £180-200,000

Folkestone
4 Storey with Potential
Guide: £90-100,000

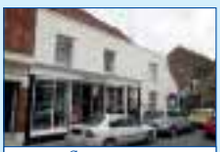


Chartham
Semi-Detached Bungalow
Guide: £90-95,000

Sandgate
Plot with Planning/Sea Views
Guide: £120-125,000

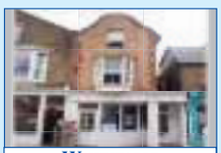
Broadstairs
Good Commercial Investment
Guide: £475-500,000

Ivychurch
Det. house with Rural Views
Guide: £145-155,000

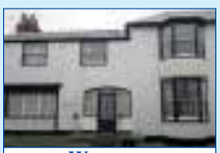


Sandwich
Premises in heart of Cinque Port
Guide: £220-225,000

Ramsgate
Former Takeaway/Upper Parts
Guide: £85-95,000

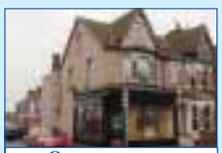


Whitstable
Maisonette in Good Location
Guide: £80-85,000

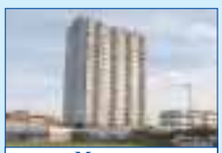


Wingham
Charming Cottage in Village
Guide: £95-100,000

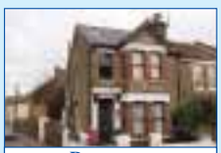
Herne Bay
Three Bedroom House
Guide: £110-120,000



Queenborough
Shop and Maisonette
Guide: £80-85,000



Margate
2 Flats for Investment
Guides: From £22,000 Plus



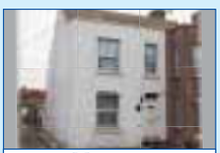
Ramsgate
House arranged as 2 Flats
Guide: £110-115,000

Brabourne Lees
Land with Future Potential
Guide: £40-50,000

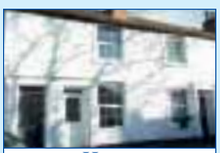
Herne Bay
Land with Potential
Guide: £15-20,000

Ramsgate
Lge House in Good Condition
Guide: £230-250,000

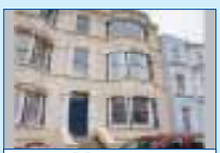
Dover
Large Premises with Potential
Guide: £320-340,000



Margate
Three Bedroom House
Guide: £85-90,000



Hythe
Cottage for Improvement
Guide: £90-95,000



Margate
Flat for Refurbishment
Guide: £22-26,000

Tunbridge Wells
Pair of Semis for Repair
Guide: £200-220,000

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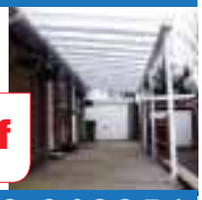

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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Volkswagen opens more doors for its Up!
- Fantastic views as Scénic gets a facelift
- Rio draws attention to itself with coupé looks

Stylish and fun, Renault conjures a magical new sporty Clio

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FIRST DRIVE

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How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: Ford Fiesta

All-new Aveo gives supermini sector real bolt from the blue

GENERAL Motors is showing its determination to give its Chevrolet brand the big-hitting status it enjoys on American home turf.

Chevy's middle sector Cruze model has already made UK consumers take notice – on road and track – and it is now joined by a smart new Aveo supermini.

This second generation model is a huge improvement over the old car, which was a Daewoo Kalos until the Chevrolet re-branding.

The all-new replacement looks a real Chevy though; affordable with the sort of charm that wove the brand name into so many popular songs – including Don McLean's American Pie.

It is offered only as a five-door, but has a rakish coupé look enhanced by rear handles concealed in the doorframes, and a rising crease line on the lower flanks.

Chevy has ignored the vogue for fully glazed front lighting and given the car twin-podded chrome-mounted headlights flanking the brand's now familiar two-part grille.

A large and airy cabin is made possible by a long wheelbase and rear headroom, legroom and width is excellent, with design highlights being the motorcycle-inspired cluster of dials and gauges and two jet intake-style air vents.

As you might expect of a car intended to champion value – prices start at £9,995 – the materials are rugged rather than lavish, but there's a decent boot and lots of stowage as well, including two gloveboxes.

Typically, Chevrolet's low asking prices don't short change on features; even LS entry trim comes with air con, cruise control, electric and heated door mirrors, electric front windows and six airbags – contributing to a maximum five-star EuroNCAP safety rating.

Mid-spec LT trim (from £10.995) gets you into alloys, steering wheel audio controls and more while flagship LTZ (from £12,195) is luxurious, and all come with Chevrolet's five-year/100,000-mile warranty.

On top of all this though, the Aveo is a decent drive, which won't harm the brand's intention to target younger buyers who demand value for fun. The car's all-new chassis feels taut on the road, yet not at the expense of ride quality, while cabin noise is low for this class.

All engines are new, economical and hard to fault; the 85bhp 1.2-litre entry level petrol unit will be the best-seller, but feels slightly underpowered – keen drivers will prefer the 99bhp 1.4-litre (from £12,375) petrol.

The standout engine though is the 1.3-litre diesel, available with 74bhp and 94bhp outputs and five or six-speed 'box. It's exceptionally smooth, refined and economical (from £12,345) and even available as a road tax-beating eco special (from £12,795).

There is also a six-speed auto option for the 1.4 petrol, though the changes are rather jerky. But there is much to please punters in this new line-up – and much to worry the opposition.

LITTLE GEM: Chevrolet is aiming high with its new Aveo and has created a car that will have rival car-makers in the supermini sector looking in the rear-view mirror

DON'T LIKE

... the automatic version. Auto changes are not smooth – best to use in manual mode, via an unusual rocker switch on the selector column.

NOT SURE

... the plodding entry-level 1.2-litre petrol engine is a good enough match for the car's undoubtedly racy looks. Buy the 1.4 or the diesel.

REALLY LIKE

...the car's all-round appeal and value. Chevy has put down a real marker here and French supermini rivals will really feel the pressure.

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VAUXHALL

Yaris virtues carried through

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TOYOTA'S original 1995-vintage Yaris supermini was a game changer.

Up to that point, the Japanese marque had a woeful record in this sector of the market.

But the first Yaris was distinctively styled, capacious and had a clever and now much imitated sliding rear seat allowing a fine balance between rear legroom and boot space.

It also proved cheap to run and dependable.

From no hoper in this sector, Toyota became a star and the Yaris is the marque's perennial UK best seller, though the reasons for that are now less clear-cut.

For the original proved to be a tough act to follow, so its 2006 successor was more evolution, rather than revolution.

Last September, it too gave way to a new version and one senses that Toyota has played safe again, relying on the Yaris hallmarks of space, reliability and no-nonsense running costs rather than pushing boundaries, as it did way back in 1995.

The styling of the new car is sharp and clever though; Toyota has retained the lofty rear headroom of before, but blacked out the wide rear pillar of the three-door in order to create the optical illusion that the roof is much lower and that the Yaris might, in fact, be a coupe. Similarly, blacked out middle pillars create a lowering effect on the five-door version.

Unfortunately, the chassis is not as sporting as appearance would suggest and the ride can be unruly when the car is pushed hard.

Interior trim is nothing spectacular either and some plastics – such as the top of the dashboard and the armrest caps – while hard yet durable, contrast horribly with upmarket goodies on our SR test car such as the leather trimmed wheel, gear knob and seats, plus sat nav/audio display.

At least we now have all the clocks and dials grouped ahead of the driver, rather than in a penny-pinching central binnacle as previously. Indeed all the controls are well-arranged, light and easy to use.

There is also plenty of handy stowage in the front, with the USB/Aux/MP3 player socket in the glove compartment so that your precious gadget can be plugged in and hidden from the eyes of the light-fingered.

I was surprised that there is no adjustment to allow the steering wheel to be moved forwards or backwards, though the seats are comfortable and supportive.

Apart from the headroom already mentioned, the Yaris also offers decent legroom and width in the back, with 'piggy in the middle' getting a much better deal on elbow room than in most rival superminis.

Engine choice is fairly thin, with a 68bhp 1.0-litre petrol unit and five-speed gearbox opening the range.

Low CO_2 emissions and a potential average of nearly 60mpg, plus the £11,170 entry price may tempt some, but a leisurely 0-62mph in more than 15 seconds will deter most.

The best bet is the 98bhp 1.33-litre petrol engine (from £12,760) of the test car. With a six-speed gearbox it gives the best of all worlds for the range, though there is also an 89bhp 1.4-litre diesel option (from £14,260).

The gearbox is light, enables the 1.33 to average more than 50mpg, and makes the Yaris a decent drive, but it is noisy on the motorway.

Many buyers will be drawn to the Yaris though by its mixture of looks and dependability, backed by Toyota's five-year warranty.

Nevertheless, a glance at Kia's newly-launched Rio shows that the world's biggest carmaker cannot afford to be complacent; having conjured something from nothing with the original Yaris, Toyota must now work its supermini magic more convincingly in future.

TOYOTA YARIS 1.33 SR 5-DR: PRICE £13,835

THE OLD FAITHFUL: Toyota's Yaris has been relaunched, but it worked so well to begin with that really all that has changed is a little styling

FACT FILE

Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Reliabilty:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£95 (zero year one)
Best rival:	Ford Fiesta

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

Up! scores more on doors

VOLKSWAGEN has unveiled a five-door version of its new Up! city car.

It retains the same 2.42-metre-long wheelbase and impressive interior space, plus the capacious 251-litre boot but offers greater access to the back seats.

UK deliveries should start in late 2012 and expect a premium of about £500 against three-door equivalents, which start at £7,995.

Renault opens Scénic route

ORDER books are open for the revised Renault Scénic (from £18,325) and Grand Scénic (from £19,725) MPVs.

The facelift includes more contemporary front styling, plus gloss black and chrome detailing, standard LED daytime running lights, new rear lights and rear parking sensors as standard.

There are also new engines: a 115bhp 1.2 TCe petrol and 110bhp 1.5-litre diesel.

Rio 'coupé' arriving soon

KIA has broken with tradition and made its latest Rio available with three doors as well as five.

Looking even more rakish in this guise, it could almost be termed a coupé and will be priced from just £9,995 – buyers will save £600 against equivalent five door versions.

The same four engines are also offered – two petrol and two diesel.

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Official Government fuel consumption figures (Range): Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (litres per 100km/mpg) & CO_2 emissions (g/km); Highest: Citroën C3 VTi 120 AUTOMATIC Exclusive 9.4/30.0, 5.0/56.4, 6.6/42.8, 153. Lowest: Citroën C3 e-HDi 70 AIRDREAM EGS VTR+ 3.6/78.5, 3.2/88.3, 3.4/83.1, 87.

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Model shown is Yaris TR 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual £12,260. Prices correct at time of going to press. *0% APR Representative only available on new retail sales of Yaris TR when ordered, registered and financed between 6 December 2011 and 31 March 2012 through Toyota Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ on a 3 year AccessToyota (PCP) plan with 0%-20% deposit. †Payment shown is based on a 3 year AccessToyota contract with 17.08% deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Excess miles over 30,000 charged at 8p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.

Yaris TR 1.0l VVT-i Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (1/100km): Urban 48.7 (5.8), Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3), Combined 58.9 (4.8). CO_2 Emissions 111g/km.

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*Price relates to Aveo 1.2 LS with metallic paint available at an extra cost of £375. Available at participating Dealers only. Specification varies across the range. Image shown is an Aveo 1.4 LTZ, available at £11,195. Offer ends 31st March 2012. 5 year warranty up to 100,000 miles, expires whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment of a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. Years 4 and 5 are an insurance-backed warranty up to a maximum of 100,000 miles. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. 5 year warranty is available on retail registrations only. Models shown in the thumbnails are not all UK specification and therefore not currently available in the UK. Vehicles currently available in the UK are Spark, New Aveo, Cruze, Orlando, Captiva and Corvette. For more information visit www.chevrolet.co.uk. Price correct at time of press. Calls may be recorded and monitored for training purposes.

†Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.4 LTZ: Urban - 36.7 (7.7), Extra Urban - 57.7 (4.9), Combined - 47.9 (5.9). CO_2 emissions 139g/km.

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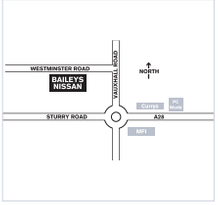

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Fuel consumption figures for Nissan X-TRAIL Range: URBAN 31.0-36.2mpg (9.1-7.8L/100km), EXTRA URBAN 47.9-51.4mpg (5.9-5.5L/100km), COMBINED 39.8-44.1mpg (7.1-6.4L/100km) CO2 emissions 188-168g/km.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): New Astra SRi hatchback: Urban: 28.5 (9.9) – 60.1 (4.7), Extra-urban: 49.6 (5.7) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined: 39.2 (7.2) – 72.4 (3.9). CO2 emissions 169 – 104g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRi 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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in metallic twilight blue with contrasting black and grey cloth interior-climate control-alloy wheels-electric heated door mirrors-remote control central locking-multiple air bag protection system-electric windows-front center arm rest-driver and passenger seat height adjustment-CD in car entertainment system-multifunction steering wheel-this car offers great fuel economy with low cost tax and insurance groups sensibly priced at only **£4,995**

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in metallic moonstone silver with contrasting black cloth interior-air conditioning-electric windows-rear parking sensors-remote control central locking-alloy wheels-alloy wheels-c/d in-car entertainment system-leather armrest-multiple airbag protection system-electric adjustable door mirrors-front fog lights-electric drivers seat height adjustment-this car has great fuel economy and would make a good family car **£3,995**

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* 10 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI CR vRS 5-DR Hatchback
  Black Magic Metallic, 20,500 miles*, Manual, Diesel £14,995
* 09 Plate. Skoda Fabia 3 1.6 16v (105 BHP) 5-DR Estate
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  Brilliant Silver Metallic, 20,494 miles*, Automatic, Petrol £6,995
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  Red metallic, 26,116 miles* Manual Diesel £6,995
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  Red Metallic, 39,080 miles*, Manual, Petrol £5,995
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  Silver Steel Metallic, 69,000 miles*, Manual, Petrol £4,295
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  Blue Metallic, 4,900 miles*, Auto Clutch, Petrol £12,995
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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Skoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 83.1 (3.4). CO_2 emissions for the Skoda range 237 – 89g/km.

New Registration '12

Buying a '12 plate may be better bet than the bank

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

NEW car demand last year managed to defy the worst industry predictions and may herald an upturn in demand.

Registrations for 2011 totalled 1.94 million, down 4.4 per cent on 2010, but ahead of the gloomy 1.92 million forecast, according to industry mouthpiece, the SMMT (Society of Motors Manufacturers and Traders).

And diesel and alternatively fuelled cars both took record market shares over the year as average new car CO2 emissions fell to a new low of 138.1g/km, down 4.2 per cent on the 2010 level.

SMMT chief executive Paul Everitt still expects a tough 2012, but said: "Record numbers of new and updated models, significantly improved fuel efficiency and exciting new technologies will help to encourage consumers into showrooms."

Fact is there are strong arguments for buying a new car even during rocky economic times.

People with savings will see them languishing in the bank earning barely any interest, where as there are savings galore to be made on a car now – just in time for the new '12 registration plate from March 1.

First of all, you should be able to drive a hard bargain, with manufacturers and forecourts keen to deal and being more realistic about list prices in tough times.

ALL MOD CONS: The Skoda Yeti, left, can be a crossover model and a decent off-roader, while the Lexus CT200h, below, is unique – an eco-friendly executive-class hybrid

You should get a realistic valuation on your old car too, since used car values are buoyant due to the lower number of new cars sold since the recession hit in 2007 – meaning fewer used cars in circulation to soak up demand from that sector.

Other buyer incentives out there include tempting finance packages or personal leases – which banks aren't keen to match – insurance and servicing. There are also outstanding warranties available such as Kia's industry-beating seven-year/100,000-mile package.

Servicing deals often cost extra, but can be very cost-effective, so ask about those.

Remember too that road tax also favours downsizing; many small cars and family hatchbacks are either exempt or qualify for zero road tax in year one and modest charges thereafter.

Diesels have won over many skeptics with their economy and good low-down power delivery and now outsell petrol models.

But petrol fuel should remain more affordable than diesel simply because of the way oil refining capacity is geared.

Petrol engines are also cheaper and lighter, and while they still cannot compete on absolute economy against diesels, you need to be a high mileage user to recoup the higher upfront cost of the latter. Their lightness saves wear on the front tyres and mechanicals too.

Small and efficient turbocharged petrol units also make a difference in small cars – they are nimbler and nicer to drive – and road tax and emissions for petrol engines are getting better.

Factor in all of the above and the sums start to add up on ditching something dated and less efficient in favour of a modern and more eco-friendly model – it might be better than leaving the money in the bank.

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Model shown is Yaris TR 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual £12,260. Prices correct at time of going to press. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.
Yaris TR 1.0l VVT-i Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (1/100km): Urban 48.7 (5.8), Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3), Combined 58.9 (4.8). CO_2 Emissions 111g/km.

NEW **REG '12**

Visit **carsforkent.co.uk**

Important dos and don'ts before buying a new car

DON'T accept the first deal on offer – be ready to haggle.

DON'T be afraid to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or further discounts or extras.

DON'T fall for what seems like a big bargain before you even haggle. It could be an unpopular engine or trim combination or a car on 'run-out' where production ceased a while ago – it might be just as thirsty as your old car and will depreciate badly.

DO pick a model that saves fuel, insurance, road tax and depreciation – it won't get any easier out there.

DON'T be blinded by road tax-exempt, but expensive diesel eco models – check price, running costs, green credentials and the savings over your planned ownership mileage/years, then compare against the closest standard version.

DON'T assume that diesel will save – you usually pay more upfront and the engines are generally heavier, which means more wear on front tyres and mechanicals. The fuel is also dearer at the pumps, while petrol car economy and emissions have improved and they are often nicer to drive.

CROSSOVER STYLE: Kia's eye-catching Sportage has, top, revolutionised the marque's image, while Toyota's Verso is a star turn in the MPV sector

BIG HAUL: Mercedes-Benz Vito – designed for the driver's comfort as well as long-term reliability and efficiency for the operator

New vans are loads better

VAN design has been revolutionised over the past decade or so.

Operators have seen economy, efficiency and flexibility soar, while drivers have enjoyed better performance, refinement and safety.

Initially, this was confined to smaller models derived from cars and included air con and a decent sound system, but the same philosophy has since migrated to larger vans.

The range of van capacities has also widened, varying from as little as three cubic metres for a car-derived hatchback used for courier work or as company runabouts, up to a 17-cubic-metre delivery van.

Access has improved too. Many larger vans have low floors in the driving compartment for easy access and most vehicles above the supermini class now come with at least one sliding door as standard to aid loading – many buyers take the option of a second 'slider'.

There is now a choice usually of side-opening twin doors or a high lift tailgate as well, while cab doors generally have a reduced opening angle, with the double benefit of making it easy for a busy driver to grab the handle to close the door and also avoid it swinging wide and hitting something.

Petrol-driven vans have been displaced by the better economy, range and low-down pulling power of diesels. Extended service periods, lower maintenance costs and longer-lasting parts then compound diesel-operating benefits.

Gearboxes have also changed. A six-speed manual gearbox is the standard – two cogs better than only a few years ago – but urban operators are turning increasingly to automatic, semi-automatic or clutch-less transmissions.

These can usually be driven with manual selection anyway, but are ideal for the stop-start traffic conditions of the town and city and can be as economical as a manual.

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Then came the rise of the family hatchback and supermini; throughout the 90s and early Noughties they had a ding-dong battle for market leadership.

However, soaring fuel and insurance costs, greater environmental awareness, punitive road tax on larger cars, and ever more stylish small car designs, have enabled superminis to take some 40 per cent of sales if you include the even smaller city car segment.

Even family hatchbacks had to settle for the number two spot with around 25 per cent of registrations.

More difficult to quantify though is the trend towards 'crossovers' – cars like the Kia Sportage, Skoda Yeti and Citroën C3 Picasso.

As the name implies they straddle several sectors including family hatchback, MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) or people carrier and SUV (sports utility vehicle) and are hard to pigeonhole under current classifications.

But these 'Swiss Army knives' of the market are here to stay judging by the increasing numbers being sold.

SIZE MATTERS: Top left, Honda's Swindon-built Jazz offers people-carrier design and supermini flexibility

VERSATILE: BMW's all-new X1, above, qualifies as one of a new breed of all-purpose crossovers

STYLISH: Citroën's premium quality DS2, pictured left, cuts a real dash

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CT 200h fuel consumption and CO_2 figures: urban 68.9 mpg (4.1 l/100km), extra-urban 70.6 mpg (4.0 l/100km), combined 68.9 mpg (4.1 l/100km). CO_2 emissions combined 94 g/km.

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Offer available on selected BMW 1 Series 5-door models ordered between 1 January and 31 March 2012 and registered by 30 June 2012, subject to availability. Finance example is based on a BMW Select agreement for the model stated, a 116i Sport, with a contract mileage of 40,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 6p per mile. *On the road cash price is based on manufacturer's recommended retail price and includes 3 year BMW Dealer Warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months' road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. ^Option to purchase fee and optional final payment payable at the end of the agreement if you decide to purchase the vehicle. Excess mileage charges and vehicle condition charges may be payable if you return the vehicle. Prices are correct at time of publication and are subject to change without notice. Retail customers only. Finance is subject to credit acceptance and available to over 18s in the UK only (excluding the Channel Islands). Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Advertised finance is provided by BMW Financial Services (BMW FS). Whilst we have close links with BMW FS and commonly introduce customers to BMW FS, we do not work exclusively with BMW FS. **Figure based on fuel consumption on combined cycle. [1]Test drive subject to status and availability. BMW EfficientDynamics reduces emissions without compromising performance developments and is standard across the model range.

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CRICKET

BIRTHPLACE: Geraint Jones left PNG aged six

International coaching role appeals to Jones

AN APPEARANCE for Papua New Guinea next month is unlikely to be a one-off for Geraint Jones and the Kent wicketkeeper is open to the idea of coaching the national side in the future.

The 35-year-old was born in the country and several years after the idea was first suggested he will make his bow in the Twenty20 World Cup qualifying tournament in Dubai.

Jones, who played 34 Test matches for England, has only been back once since leaving Papua New Guinea as a six-year-old, but is keen to share his experience beyond the event and even after the end of his playing career.

He said: "I would like to think it's something more regular. It's a fantastic opportunity to be involved a bit more and could lead to something other than just playing. There may be the potential of a coaching role down the line at some point, who knows.

"To be back playing international cricket is exciting and it's a new group of players. To qualify would be an amazing achievement, but we know it's going to be tough."

The tournament will be useful in his preparations for the season with Kent. New coach Jimmy Adams is expected to begin work shortly and Jones is keen to get started.

He said: "There will be five or six new faces around with the new coach and some younger players coming in. In a way it's a new changing room, which is exciting."

OLYMPICS

SCOTT OVERALL

- **AGE:** 28
- **HOME CLUB:** Blackheath & Bromley Harriers
- **EVENT:** Marathon
- **CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** Running the Olympic qualifying time on his marathon debut at Berlin in September
- **OLYMPIC SELECTION CHANCES:** Guaranteed

Kent's Olympic Countdown 27.07.2012

MILES BETTER: Scott Overall has spent the winter beginning to prepare for London 2012 Picture: ADY KERRY

Overall set for marathon task

By David Pritchard
david.pritchard@archant.co.uk

WHILE dozens of athletes across the county have begun 2012 fretting over whether they are doing enough to qualify for the Olympics or Paralympics this summer, one man is avoiding all the stress, safe in the knowledge his place is secure.

With the unique demands of training for the marathon in mind, the first round of selection was made in December. As the only British man to have run under the required standard, on his debut in Berlin last September, Scott Overall has the luxury of preparing for the Games with certainty.

The Blackheath & Bromley Harrier is pleased to have the extra time to plan, but is taking steps to avoid becoming overwhelmed by what lies ahead.

"I have a lot of targets coming up and I'm more focused on them at the moment," he said.

"It's nice to have things that aren't the Olympics which act as stepping stones towards it. That way I'm not going out every run thinking about it, you can just get mentally worn out if you keep thinking about it all the time.

"I don't want to get over-excited, we're only just in February now and the race isn't until August. The rest of the track and field team will only have three or four weeks between the trials and the Games, at that point it's easy to think about the race and prepare for it."

Overall returns to competitive action for the first time since Berlin with a 10 kilometre race in Holland next weekend. The build-up to the summer also includes altitude training in the United States, while he will act as a pacemaker at the London Marathon in April to help the rest of the British team achive the qualifying time.

With just one competitive marathon under his belt, Overall is a rookie over the 26.2-mile discipline, although a lengthy career over shorter distances has provided a useful apprenticeship.

What would represent a successful finish in August is open for debate, but the 28-year-old is confident improvements will be made after learning valuable lessons in Germany.

He said: "You have to be realistic with these things. There's going to be three Ethiopians on the start line, three Kenyans and the Americans are strong as well.

"I can definitely go faster, in Berlin I was completely on my own for the last 13 miles. With regard the Olympics it's not a time trial, you're not racing the clock, it's against the other guys.

"No one remembers what time the marathon is won in, just who won it."

CRICKET

England's newest centurion hoping to cash in during New Zealand series

THE England women's squad left for a tour of New Zealand this week with one of the Kent contingent keen to build on a breakthrough moment from the last trip.

Lydia Greenway finally ended her long wait for a century in England colours in her 89th One Day International, against South Africa in October.

The 26-year-old admitted it had lifted a burden off her shoulders.

She said: "That was a long time coming. I probably owe England a few more. It was just pleasing to finally get one, but I don't want to dwell on it too much because I'm quite aware I need to keep performing. As a batter you're judged on stats so I guess it was a bit of a relief."

Greenway is one of five Kent players in the squad taking on New Zealand. It marks the start of an important 12 months for the team, who will play World Cups in the 20 and 50-over versions of the game.

England have become one of the sides to beat in recent years but avoiding the pain of an early defeat in the Twenty20 World Cup in 2010 remains a powerful source of motivation.

Greenway said: "That's still in the back of our minds and is something we really want to put right. I'm sure we don't want to feel the same again. "We also know the other teams want to knock us down."

LONG WAIT: Lydia Greenway

BOB SKELETON

World junior title catapults ice cool Yarnold into a shot at the big time

RELIEF was the overwhelming emotion for Lizzy Yarnold after finding out she had become junior world champion in bob skeleton last week.

The 23-year-old led after the first round at Igls in Austria and despite a slightly ragged second run she went on to increase the advantage over Russia's Olga Potylitsina to take gold by almost half a second in the winter sport, which sees competitors hurtle head first on a sled down a bobsleigh run.

The West Kingsdown athlete won silver at the championships 12 months ago and was thrilled to reach the top step of the podium this time around.

She said: "It was a massive relief to finish the second run. I knew it was going to be a very tight competition but winning it was my focus for the season."

It was the second success in as many weeks for Yarnold, who won in only her second World Cup event at St Moritz just before heading to Igls. She did not have long to celebrate the newly acquired status as a junior world champion and within hours was on her way to Canada to compete in the next round of the World Cup.

CHAMPION: Lizzy Yarnold

The hectic schedule continues later this month with the pinnacle of her career so far - the Senior World Championships at Lake Placid, New York.

The entry comes as part of the junior win and Yarnold is looking forward to going up against the world's best.

She said: "I'm not someone who puts pressure on myself because I wouldn't want it to have a negative affect - I perform when I enjoy myself.

"I won't be going with specific expectations, just to do my best and see what happens."

FOOTBALL

King left to watch and wonder as Gillingham continue to leak goals

By David Pritchard
david.pritchard@archant.co.uk

WATCHING the chaos unfold in the Gillingham defence from the sidelines, Simon King could be forgiven for feeling mixed emotions in recent weeks.

Certainly there is frustration, at being powerless to prevent Andy Hessenthaler's side conceding four goals on successive Saturdays in damaging defeats to AFC Wimbledon and Accrington Stanley.

But the centre-back, who has played only a handful of minutes for the Gills this season, would not be human if part of him did not recognise the loss of form opened the door to an opportunity back in the first-team.

"To be honest nothing in football surprises me nowadays," he said, with the weariness of someone who has played just 11 games in 32 months since suffering a serious ankle injury.

"Obviously it's down to the gaffer. I'm always here if needed and if he wants to change it hopefully I could go in and do a job. You've got to remember we have a top quality squad and the players in front of me are good centre-halves."

King is far too modest to admit it, but while the players ahead of him in the queue at Priestfield all have proven Football League records, the feeling is none are better than the former Barnet defender at his peak.

It is tempting to think Gillingham's recent defensive calamities would not have happened on King's watch, but unfortunately it is not a theory which can be put to the test.

The injury sustained in a pre-season friendly in 2009 did not end the highly-rated defender's career completely, but the lack of games since (see table) shows the apex was reached three seasons ago, when he helped the Gills to promotion and was seemingly destined for big things individually.

King said: "It's frustrating because I love the club. The last time I really featured was the season we got promoted and they were great times. I'd love to be out there but I know I have to be patient and wait for a chance.

"Trust me, I love training with the boys and playing on a Saturday, you miss that buzz. I'm itching to get out there but at the same time you have to be patient, I'm not going to kick up a fuss because I'm not playing. I respect the boys in front of me.

"With my injury background you've got to be more patient. That's embedded in you when you're out for so long. If I didn't have ankle problems I would be getting very frustrated now. As I've got older and a bit more mature you tend to be more patient."

King, who is still only 28, remains optimistic of playing beyond his 30th birthday, but with his contract at Priestfield expiring at the end of the season he admits in all probability the future may lie elsewhere.

He said: "I haven't really featured much this season so it's going to be difficult come the summer, but I'd like to think I'm still capable of doing a job in someone's League Two team."

KING'S GILLINGHAM CAREER

2007/08 – 47 appearances
2008/09 – 52
2009/10 – 0
2010/11 – 4
2011/12 – 1 (6 on loan at Plymouth)

Picture: ADY KERRY

PATIENT: Simon King is waiting for a chance

FOOTBALL

Appiah beats deadline to join Crystal Palace

THE transfer deadline passed with little fanfare at Gillingham, but there was activity elsewhere in the county before the window shut on Tuesday.

Prolific Margate striker Kwesi Appiah made his long-awaited return to the Football League after signing for Crystal Palace.

The 21-year-old leapt five divisions from the Ryman Premier to the Championship when he signed a two-and-a-half year deal at Selhurst Park. Margate received an undisclosed fee, with the deal believed to include clauses which would see the Blues receive further remuneration depending on performances.

Steve Wells, Margate's press officer, said: "Everyone at the club wishes Kwesi well. We've said right from the start we would never stand in the way of a deal for a player to go to a higher level. Given he was under contract it had to be a sensible deal for the club as well."

Several Premier League and Championships clubs had been tracking Appiah's progress as he hit 35 goals in all competitions this season.

Earlier this month the club accepted an offer from Blackpool, but the former Ebbsfleet United and Peterborough United hitman turned the move down.

Ebbsfleet United breathed a sigh of relief as they kept hold of highly-rated Michael West and were even able to strengthen, signing Reading youngster Gozie Ugwu on loan.

Picture: WWW.MARGATE-FC.COM

DREAM MOVE: Kwesi Appiah

RUGBY UNION

Blackheath coach invited to join England Counties

AS THE senior squad kick off their Six Nations campaign this weekend England's amateur side is preparing with the help of a Kent-based coach.

The England Counties XV is made up of players from outside the top two divisions and Steve Pope has been appointed forwards coach.

The director of club rugby at Blackheath knows all about the side after playing against Australia and South Africa during the 2000/01 season.

He said: "It is the summit for anyone below the elite level and recognises younger players who might be ready to make the step up to the professional game."

The squad will play an Irish Clubs' XV at Preston next month ahead of a summer tour to Kenya and Uganda, which involves a pastoral role.

Pope said: "After we've played Kenya, we will spend a time with the coaches from their national side.

"The squad will be involved with an outreach of tag rugby, so there's a real agenda to help spread it worldwide."

HONOURED: Steve Pope

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS
WITH **FRED ATKINS**

Seasiders' grand gesture to fans

WHAT'S the worst thing that can happen to you at a Kent football ground? Catching sight of Peter Ridsdale in an amicable discussion with your chairman? Hearing Rodney Marsh say he's got a five-year plan to take you into the Football League? Or merely the humiliation of a heavy defeat against a side you expected to beat comfortably?

In a week when the concept of reward for failure became the bandwagon of choice for politicians across the spectrum, Folkestone Invicta gave everyone a lesson in atonement by agreeing to slash admission prices for the next home game.

In the aftermath of a 4-0 defeat at home to Merstham, manager Neil Cugley and his players agreed they would fund the price cut as a way of rewarding fans.

The concept of failure here is clearly open to interpretation. Admittedly losing 4-0 at home to Merstham doesn't look good, but some context is needed.

Folkestone were unbeaten in their previous 10 league games, they remain fifth in Ryman Division One South and are an excellent bet for the play-offs.

Merstham might be a village club, who Invicta trounced 4-0 in October, but they have improved significantly, producing some eye-catching recent results.

Invicta, it seems, caught them at exactly the wrong time, when the players were trying to impress a new manager and almost everything they tried came off.

I doubt any Invicta fan who watched will have felt happy walking away from Cheriton Road, but anyone who remembers the tragic death of Paul Sykes there seven years ago will know how to keep a 4-0 defeat in perspective.

Internet forums are usually a haven for the psychologically unhinged after any defeat, but Invicta's was a model of restraint. The gesture was clearly appreciated, but few felt it necessary, with some saying they would donate the difference back to the club anyway.

Contrast the cyber-reaction from Folkestone's fans to Gillingham, where Andy Hessenthaler's offer to refund travelling expenses for fans who'd made the journey to Accrington backfired.

The gist was if Hessenthaler was going to refund fans for this, would he reimburse them for a list of other perceived affronts, ranging from the cost of a season ticket, to the emotional distress caused by the 1987 play-off final defeat to Swindon?

Just as Roy Keane spent his playing career in a state of near-permanent agitation that was only tempered for a few fleeting moments when he collected a trophy, there exists a certain kind of football fan who is hardwired for misery.

Happily, there don't seem to be too many at Folkestone.

It's only a month since they beat Hythe 8-0 after all and nobody would have begrudged the players a bonus then.

Maybe Stephen Hester can organise a whip-round?

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 14.4 (19.6)-67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3)-91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7)-80.7 (3.5). CO_2 emissions: 324-94g/km.

*Not available on Expression. ES, ES Tech & Tech line models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses (1-24 purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 02 April 2012. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. *Customer deposit shown after deduction of Vauxhall contribution.